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ABSTRACT

This report provides testimony from children and adolescents who have experienced violence, along with testimony and comments from child advocates, legislators, government officials, educators, and youth leaders on violence and its effects on American youth. The report includes background information on the Children's Express Foundation (CE), a hearings schedule, and testimony from 56 individuals. Each panel session also includes questions from CE student examiners. Five appendixes provide: (1) a summary of findings and recommendations on the nature of violence in America today, approaches to the treatment of violence, and action needed; (2) profiles of CE student examiners; (3) profiles of witnesses and speakers; (4) profiles of programs and institutions highlighted in the hearings; and (5) media quotes on the hearings. A list of CE publications is included. (MDM)

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ED 384 434

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS NATIONAL HEARINGS *on* VIOLENCE *in the* CHILD'S LIFE

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AT HOME
AT SCHOOL
& ON THE
STREETS

OCTOBER 25 - 27, 1993

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Hearings on Violence in the Child's Life: At Home, At School and On the Streets were a collaboration among many organizations and individuals deeply concerned about the issue of violence in the lives of our most fragile population. We are most grateful to the Ittleson Foundation and then-Executive Director David Nee; and to the Joyce Foundation and Deborah Leff, President, whose vision and lead funding made our Hearings a reality. Thanks, also, to all the funders of the Hearings, including the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Ethel & Irvin Edelman Foundation and the George Gund Foundation for their support of the design and printing of these proceedings.

The National Education Association, host of the Hearings, and its President, Keith Geiger, contributed not only the facility, but also many energetic staff, including Sylvia Seidel, Pat Orange, Bev Hill, and Tony Williams. The vision of Ed Jones, General Manager of Howard University's WHMM-TV Channel 32 made possible three days of gavel-to-gavel coverage, and the one-hour edits for the PBS system. Many WHMM staff were involved in this effort, but we would particularly like to thank Milton Clipper, Glenn Dixon, Sherri Ellerbe, Gail Jessup, Kojo Nnamdi, Bill Pratt, and Harold Scott, along with the production crew. We also appreciate the support of the member organizations of the Coalition for America's Children, with the leadership of Susan Bales of the Benton Foundation and Lisa Tate of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI).

Kathy Morrell, Shawn Mural, and Sharon Reuss, all of Kathy Morrell and Associates, along with Kate Kelleher, our able CE assistant, were superb and committed organizers. Diana Shannon Associates contributed our logo. Many thanks to Children's Express National Headquarters staff and volunteers who contributed energy and many long hours. Special thanks to our friends Susan Goodwillie, editor of this publication, and Michael Shenk, graphics designer.

The real credit for these Hearings goes to the reporters and editors of Children's Express, and their Bureau Directors. As examiners and panel facilitators, they worked many hours to prepare for their roles and provided the child's perspective on these issues. The Operations Team, led by Mark Jennings, kept things running on schedule.

Finally, we thank the adult and youth witnesses who shared their compelling testimony with us, and the organizations behind them that make a difference in children's lives every day.

Images drawn from WHMM-TV Channel 32 Hearings coverage.

Additional copies of these Proceedings may be purchased through Children's Express for $5.00 apiece. For bulk orders, please call (202) 737-7377.

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS NATIONAL HEARINGS ON VIOLENCE IN THE CHILD'S LIFE

At Home, At School and On the Streets

Edited by Susan Goodwillie

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Children's Express (CE) is a youth development and leadership program which gives children a significant voice in the world. For almost two decades, Children's Express has collected the voices of children and teens in trouble and conducted public hearings.

Following the publication of our latest book, Voices From the Future: Our Children Tell Us About Violence In America (Crown/Random House, 1993), Children's Express convened National Hearings on Violence in the Child's Life from October 25th to 27th, 1993, at the National Education Association Washington, DC.

The Children's Express hearings presented testimony from an extraordinary range of expert witnesses, including the most powerful voices of all – children and teens who have experienced the violence. Some of the testimony is very painful, but we also learned about programs that are making a difference, and about potential policies that could change America.

More than 60 CE reporters and editors from our bureaus in Washington, New York, Indianapolis, and Oakland worked months in advance in preparation for the hearings. The examiners were reporters, aged 9 to 13; teen editors presided over panels, conducted research, and ran logistics. There was extraordinary teamwork throughout.

The Hearings were carried live, gavel-to-gavel, by WHMM-TV/Channel 32. One-hour segments were broadcast by other PBS stations across America. In addition to public television, more than 37 million Americans saw television reports on the hearings on commercial television, according to the Nielsen ratings. Stories in print media reported on the hearings to millions more readers.

In the course of the hearings, Deborah Derby, an 18-year-old woman who had been abused as a child, was asked: What do you plan to do for the future? Deborah responded: Change the world. I'm not exactly sure how I'm going to change the world, but I am. I think the only way it's going to change is for more people who survived to stand up and say, "This happened to me and it's not acceptable and I'm going to change it." I think one person can make a difference. I will.

I agree with Deborah. Each of us can make a difference in the lives of children and we must. The future of America depends on it.

Robert H. Clampitt
Children's Express Foundation, Inc.

- Created in 1975, Children's Express (CE) is a national non-profit youth development and leadership organization that uses oral journalism to give children a significant voice in the world.
- CE's weekly national column is researched, reported, and edited by CE reporters (8-13) and teen editors (14-18) for audiences of all ages, and is syndicated to newspapers around the country, including Knight-Ridder newspapers (28), Newhouse newspapers (24), The Indianapolis Star, the New York Amsterdam News, the Montgomery (AL) Advertiser, the Chatham (NY) Courier, the Greenville (SC) News, the Waco (TX) Tribune Herald and The Sentinel (Prince George's and Montgomery County, MD) newspapers.
- CE has published three books of children's voices, including the recently released Voices From the Future: Our Children Tell Us About Violence in America (Crown/Random House). CE news teams have covered the past five Presidential elections; and since 1985 have held a bi-annual symposium on "The Media and Children's Issues," involving journalists and experts, as well as reporters from various CE news bureaus.
- CE received George Foster Peabody and Emmy Awards for "Campaign '88," broadcast on PBS as part of its 13-segment show, "CE News Magazine."
- CE reporters and editors have appeared on "Today," "Good Morning America," "60 Minutes," "20/20," "Sonya Live" (CNN), network evening shows, ABC, CBS and NBC evening news, "The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour," and countless local television programs; CE has been heard and covered on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," "Morning Edition," "Talk of the Nation," "The Diane Rehm Show,"and numerous other radio shows.
- Headquartered in Washington, DC, CE operates bureaus in New York, Washington, Indianapolis, Oakland, and Marquette (MI).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

Welcome – Keith Geiger, President, National Education Association

Opening Statement – Suki Cheong, 16, Editor, Children's Express

Witness Testimony and Questioning
Morning Panel

Session I

Deborah Derby, 18, Socorro, NM
Caren Bates, 16, Lena Pope Home for Children, Fort Worth, TX
Representative Patricia Schroeder (D-CO)

Session II

Dr. George Zitnay, President, National Head Injury Foundation, Washington, DC
Barbara Kawliche, Director, New Beginnings, Lewiston, ME

Session III

Leah Harrison, Assistant Director, Child Protection Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
Paul Ebert, Commonwealth's Attorney, Prince William County, VA

Session IV

Barbara Rawn, Executive Director, Virginians for Child Abuse Prevention, Inc., Richmond, VA
Phyllis Old Dog Cross, Black Hawk, SD
Suzanne Stutman, Executive Director, Channeling Parents' Anger Program, Institute for Mental Health Initiatives, Washington, DC

Witness Testimony and Questioning
Afternoon Panel

Session I

Shekia McPherson, 14, P.A.C.E. (Practical and Cultural Education) Center for Girls, Dade County, Miami, FL
Dominique Stevens, 13, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Dade County, Miami, FL
Mary Cherry, Executive Director, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Dade County, Miami, FL
Vicki Burke, Founder, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Inc., Jacksonville, FL

Session II

Rosemarie Perez, 13, Brooklyn, NY
Jose Perez, 11, Brooklyn, NY
James Bonczek, Social Worker, New York, NY

Session III

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

Session IV

Juanita Ansell, 16, Bethel Bible Village, Hixon, TN
Melissa Sarabia, Social Worker, Bethel Bible Village
Gary Behler, Director of Program Services, Bethel Bible Village

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Witness Testimony and Questioning
Morning Panel

Session I

Robin Keys, Case Manager, City Lights School, Washington, DC
Yasmeen Nixon, 19, City Lights School
Preston Vereen, 18, City Lights School
Ron Pettiway, Staff Supervisor, City Lights School

Session II

Miguel Sanchez, 15, New Directions, New York, NY
Peter Blauvelt, Director of Security, Prince George's County Public Schools, MD
Dr. Hope Hill, Professor, Howard University, Washington, DC

Session III

Domico Curry, 20, Seattle Youth Involvement, Seattle, WA
Anna Salamone-Consoli, Principal, Bulkeley High School, Hartford, CT

Witness Testimony and Questioning
Afternoon Panel

Session I

Sherrod Harris, 18, Facing History and Ourselves Program, Chicago, IL
Phredd MatthewsWall, Program Associate, Facing History and Ourselves Program, New York, NY
Damon Venable, 17, High School Peer Mediation Program, Annandale, VA

Session II

Sarah Pearson, 11, Eldorado Terrace Tutorial Program, Fort Pierce, FL
R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police, Fort Pierce, FL
Ken Papierz, Police Officer, PAL (Police Activities League) Program, Houston, TX
Charles Castillo, 15, PAL Program, Houston, TX

Session III

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Witness Testimony and Questioning
Morning Panel

Session I

Louis Harris, President, LH Research, Inc., New York, NY

Session II

Shirley Fikes, 11, Safe Haven Program, Fort Worth, TX
Anthony Jones, Director of Youth Services, Germantown Settlement, Philadelphia, PA

Session III

Frank Orlando, Retired Judge, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Ira Schwartz, Dean, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Session IV

Donny Hinkle, 18, Youth As Resources, Indianapolis, IN
John Calhoun, Executive Director, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC
Dr. Christine Pawelski, Professor, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY

Witness Testimony and Questioning
Afternoon Panel

Session I

Dr. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, Chicago, IL
Sherman Spears, 23, Youth Alive!/Teens On Target, Oakland, CA

Session II

Frances Davis, Brooklyn, NY
Chris Mason, Director of DC Operations, Funds for the Community's Future, Washington, DC
Ronald Lott, 18, Funds for the Community's Future
Henry Culbreth, 16, Funds for the Community's Future

Session III

Philip Adams, Executive Director, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL
Dennis Stovall, 16, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL
Aaron Hunter, 18, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL

Session IV

Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

MONDAY, OCT. 25

OPENING STATEMENT

Suki Cheong, 16, Editor,
Children's Express New York Bureau

Children's Express is holding these hearings to make the public aware not only that violence is occurring, but that it is happening in their neighborhood, to someone that they might know, and they could do something about it.

People are bombarded by grisly stories of violence so much that it seems senseless and ovewhelming. We can only see the dead bodies as outcomes. We don't see who the kids are. We don't see what they have to face every day, in school, at home, on the streets.

We don't focus on the causes and solutions too often. We're holding these hearings to bring to you the kids who don't make it into the nightly news: the kids who are surviving and the programs that are helping them to better their lives.

> **"We're holding these hearings to bring children's ideas to you: the politicians, the parents, the teachers, the child advocates who could help them. Children's Express is doing this because we want to make a difference and help stop the violence."**
>
> Suki Cheong, 16

The kids I've talked to all over the country for KIDS COUNT and for Voices from the Future, wanted to help other kids. They wanted to be role models. They wanted to give other kids what they never had. They have talents and they have dreams. They have kept a spark alive in them, but they cannot go the whole way themselves. They really wanted to tell the world and their governments about what their lives were like, about what could be done to improve their communities.

They wanted to make their lives, mistakes and all, count for something. We're holding these hearings to bring children's ideas to you: the politicians, the parents, the teachers, the child advocates who could help them. Children's Express is doing this because we want to make a difference and help stop the violence.

MORNING PANEL

Facilitator:
Amy Weisenbach, 17, Indianapolis Bureau

Reporters:
Reniqua Allen, 12, New York Bureau
Jwahara Coleman, 13, Washington Bureau
Tony Dale, 13, Indianapolis Bureau
Gibran McDonald, 13, Oakland Bureau
Ilana Novick, 9, New York Bureau
Ben Young, 12, Indianapolis Bureau

SESSION I

Deborah Derby, 18, Socorro, NM

I was really surprised to hear that I was different when I was a kid. I grew up in a family that looked like apple pie and ice cream from the outside, but on the inside it was full of violence and hate and physical and sexual abuse.

When I went to school and was with my friends, I realized that other kids' dads didn't beat them. Other kids' dads didn't hate them. That was a time of reckoning in my life. I grew up in an environment where abuse was a daily event. A day without a beating was a good day. A day without verbal abuse never occurred.

And yet, my dad was a respected member of the community. My parents had been missionaries and my father was on the Board of Directors at our church and a Sunday School teacher. There are still people there who feel that I was not abused. That was why I kept things to myself for so long and eventually tried to end my life because I just assumed that people wouldn't believe me.

I had a wonderful, sweet, loving mother who was trapped in the marriage and felt like there was no way out. I don't like to detail exactly what happened to me. It's very painful and I feel like the scars and the broken bones and the pain are never going to go away, but they do and things get better.

I thought about running away, but if you run away, they'll bring you back to your parents. 11-year-olds can't pack their bags and say I'm going to college. It's not an option. So I ran every scenario I could think of and the only way I could see getting out that didn't involve telling what was happening to me was killing myself.

I tried to commit suicide because I felt like a life ended was better than the life I was living. I was wrong and, fortunately, I didn't kill myself and that started off a whole slew of events that got me involved with people who could help. Child Protective Services took me out of the home that I was living in and my mom gained the courage to leave my father.

We lived in a shelter for battered women for almost two months and I took school through correspondence in a wonderful school system that allowed me to do things that weren't exactly the way things had been planned.

I came all this way and I'm talking about things that are very personal and very private because I wanted to let kids know that there's a way out. I got involved with my church and some serious therapy with a wonderful counselor who helped me to deal with the fact that it wasn't my fault, that I was a wonderful little girl who had been in some real bad circumstances.

I lived with extended family and got shipped all over the United States trying to get my life straightened out and now, thankfully, it is. I went to a high school for gifted and talented students and now I'm going to college on a full scholarship. My mom passed away to cancer when I was 16 and I was adopted by two of the most wonderful people in the world, my chemistry professor and his wife.

Wherever I've gone, there's been someone who has reached out and helped me and taken care of me and loved me. I guess that's the other reason I'm here is that for anyone who is listening to this to realize that reaching out to someone in need is so important and so helpful.

I'm glad to say that my biological father who so enjoyed abusing and torturing me was put in prison for what he did to me. He is now out because the court system feels that abusing children isn't quite as important as abusing other people.

But I'm happy to say that I stood up and said this isn't right and someone else agreed with me. A judge said yes, you were abused and that was wrong and they can't do that to you any more. And those people who didn't believe me don't matter. They don't count, I do. For a child to not explain or tell what is happening to them because of fear is exactly what the perpetrator wants to happen. I want more kids to be able to stand up and say, you can't do that anymore.

I've worked for several organizations that help people who have gone through similar situations to me and it's always wonderful to see someone escape and grow stronger. I think some of the bravest, most wonderful people in the world are the ones who have gone through the hardest situations.

"For a child to not explain or tell what is happening to them because of fear is exactly what the perpetrator wants to happen. I want more kids to be able to stand up and say, you can't do that anymore. I think children need to be seen as people. What a concept! We don't vote and we don't pay taxes and we don't have a voice, so we don't exist. But it's not all a money issue. Having a mom and dad who love you even if you're dirt poor is a lot more important than having a mom and dad who have lots of money and don't care. One person spending a little bit of time can change a life where twenty dollars, a hundred dollars, or a hundred thousand dollars may barely affect it."

Deborah Derby, 18, Socorro, NM

Caren Bates, 16
Lena Pope Home for Children, Fort Worth, TX

My home family, my parents, abused me. My mom hit me a lot. My dad sexually molested me from a very early age. It's affected me a lot because I do things now that I wish I never did. It's kind of hard to talk about my parents 'cause I haven't really forgave them for what they've done. A lot of people say that I need to forgive them but I don't think I'll ever be able to.

I stood up to my father and he's still at home. He never went away. One of these days, maybe he'll get what he deserves. I have two wonderful people who've helped me through a lot of things that I wasn't ready to work on but they pushed it to the point where now I'm working on it.

I'm always talking about where I'm going to go. I want to save all these other kids. But I can't do that 'cause I'm the one that needs to protect myself right now. I didn't protect myself when I was younger and now I'm having to learn that there's other people that's going to be here for me, that's going to care for me and they're gonna love me.

CE Examiners

Q: If there was one thing that you could say to every kid who is being abused right now, what would it be?

Deborah: There are ways out and you will overcome.

Caren: Always give someone a chance to help you.

Q: What do you plan to do for the future?

Deborah: Change the world. I'm not exactly sure how I'm going to change the world, but I am. I think that the only way it's going to change is for more people who survived to stand up and say, this happened to me and it's not acceptable and I'm going to change it. I think one person can make a difference. I will.

Caren: I'm going to get my degree in social work and help other young kids who have been in the situation that I've been in so they'll have a better place to be at now.

Q: How can government help abused children?

Deborah: I'm a kid so I'm not exactly sure that what I think government can do that would be feasible, but from what I see, I think children need to be seen as people. What a concept! We don't vote and we don't pay taxes and we don't have a voice, so we don't exist.

But rights among people who abuse children are extraordinarily high. If you become accustomed to beating a child and no one does anything about it, you're going to think it's okay to beat a child again. Forcing people to take responsibility for what they've done is important.

I think that the money the government spends is oftentimes misspent and mismanaged. When I go to buy something, I make sure that I'm getting the best quality I could get for the cheapest money that I can spend because it's my money. Unfortunately, a lot of people in the government aren't spending their money, they're spending my money. But they're not accountable and they're not responsible.

But it's not all a money issue. Having a mom and dad who love you even if you're dirt poor is a lot more important than having a mom and dad who have lots of money and don't care. One person spending a little bit of time can change a life where 20 dollars, a hundred dollars, or a hundred thousand dollars may barely affect it.

Caren: I feel as if we, the kids, should be in a family and the abuser should be taken out of the family and take the consequences and go through counseling for a couple of years or whatever they have to do to help this person. It's not really fair for us, the kids, to have to go to placement after placement and work on stuff. We deserve more of a family than the abuser does. He's the one who should be getting the consequences and the counseling.

> **"There has never been a civilization in the history of the world before this one where young kill other young. It's absolutely outrageous and you are more the target of this violence than any of us. ■ Why don't Americans see children as our future and the most important thing in which to invest our tax dollars? We're like a country with an attitude about kids and the attitude is that we don't want to spend money on them. ■ There are no votes for backing kids, kids don't vote, kids don't have political action committees and kids don't get you in power in this city."**
>
> Representative Pat Schroeder (D-CO)

Representative Pat Schroeder (D-CO)

Nationally, overall levels of violence appear to be coming down, but violence among youth appears to be going straight up, and much of it is youth attacking other youth. The question is why? And what do we do?

The continuing violence in this country is very dangerous for your generation. We see adults all getting together and wringing their hands about how bad this is, but we don't see adults and young people coming together. What can we do that's positive? You can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time.

I used to chair a Congressional Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Everybody wanted me to do away with the youth part. They wanted to do children, they wanted to do families, but they didn't want to talk about youth. Now there's a message.

We kept youth in our name and went gangbusters for the risky behavior of teens. We found that they were into violence like we've never seen before and that they were doing all sorts of things that were very risky.

Well, the Congress got so scared by the type of things that we were turning out that they abolished

the committee. And now there is no committee. Out of the hundred different committees in the Congress, there is none that has the words youth or children or families in it.

Adults are very frightened about these issues and I want to know some positive things that we can do as a community to bridge this tremendous gap between young people and adults. I want to figure out how we stop young people from killing each other. There has never been a civilization in the history of the world before this one where the young kill other young. It's absolutely outrageous and you are more the targets of this violence than any of us.

Representative Patricia Schroeder (D-CO); Deborah Derby, 18; Caren Bates, 16

CE Examiners

?: What do you think we can do to maintain or gain more money to help children where they are abused, where they need health care, where they need better schools when we don't seem to really have the money to give to them?

Schroeder: I've done a lot of study on this and what you find in other countries that do spend money on their children is that they don't see those children as your children or my children, they see them as their future. Why don't Americans see children as our future and the most important thing in which to invest our tax dollars? We're like a country with an attitude about kids and the attitude is that we don't want to spend money on them.

There are no votes for backing kids, kids don't vote, kids don't have political action committees and kids don't get you in power in this city.

We've got to change the people's attitudes because at every kitchen table in America, when a family sits down to figure out how to fix their finances, the last thing that they take it out on is their kids. In the nation's capitol, the first thing they take it out on is their kids.

SESSION II

Dr. George Zitnay, President, National Head Injury Foundation, Washington, DC

So many times when we talk about violence, we don't talk about the consequences of violence. There are victims, people who get shot and survive and have had brain or head injury. Head injury in this country is the number one killer and cause of disability in young people, especially young boys.

Do you know what it means when you have a head injury? Do you understand the brain and what goes on inside the brain? It's the brain that controls everything we do. It's not the arm that points the gun or the fist that makes the punch. It's the brain.

Every year five thousand children die as a result of a parent or a care giver hurting them. When you add the kinds of random violence that we see today in the streets, we have a national epidemic.

Right here in Washington, DC, it is estimated that twelve percent of fifth and sixth graders have been shot, stabbed, or otherwise assaulted. In DC it's not uncommon for our adolescents to attend two or three funerals of their friends a week. Think about what that does to you after a while. You become so traumatized that your feelings change, it becomes less and less personal.

Violence starts at a very early age and our job is to educate people about it. When you shake a little infant you cause the brain to bleed and you cause brain damage.

When you sustain a brain injury, everyone in your family feels it, not just you. When your brain is damaged, you have a reduced capacity to learn. Pretty soon you fail in school, pretty soon you're out of your home. People who have a disability from an injury are more likely to be abused than anyone else.

People say they don't know the answers. I heard some answers today from you and from the previous witnesses. I heard people talk about understanding, about building communities of caring, about teaching how to resolve conflict, how to forgive people, how to love people.

CE Examiners

Q: Dr. Zitnay, how could we teach parents to manage their anger in order to avoid head injury in the first place?

Zitnay: I think we have to ask ourselves, what causes a parent to hurt a child? That's pretty complex, but first of all, if you don't feel good about yourself, it's really hard to feel good about anybody else.

A new focus of prevention should be the reduction of multiple vulnerabilities that put families at risk for domestic violence. How do you deal with stress? What happens if you're in a family and nobody can read? Literacy has to be stressed. We need to teach parenting skills to young people.

Q: Can the media or television help?

Zitnay: I think they can. Look what happened when we started talking about not drinking and driving, or buckling up. It isn't just making violence on television less, it's about portraying violence as it really is, what causes it, what's behind it.

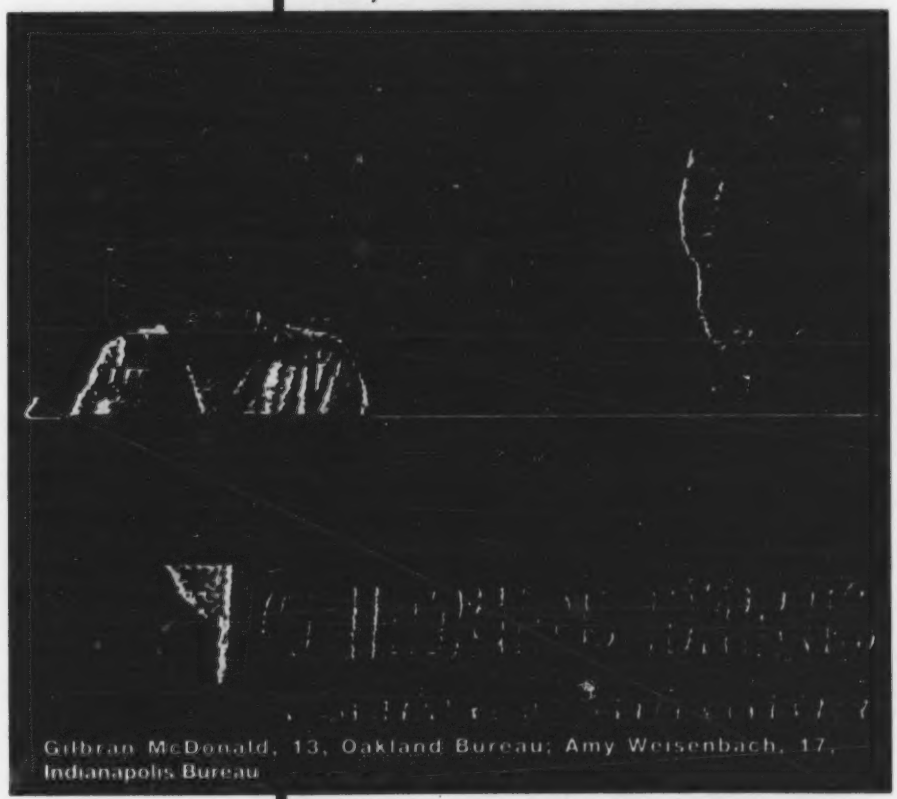
Q: How can we involve young people in finding solutions to the problem of violence?

Zitnay: If we involve all of you and our young people in thinking about the solutions and offering them, I think we could move ahead. We have a project here in DC called the Violence and Brain Project that looks at what happens when young people are put in jail. What happens to your family and to you when you get out? We're trying to teach coping skills and job skills. We're working with their families and their children. We don't just focus on the individual, but looking at the whole community around them. We work in the schools, in the church, in the community, in the family. Head Smart is another program in the school that looks at how to deal with anger, problem solving, and violence prevention.

Project Manhood works with young boys to teach them how to be men. Not men who have to go out and beat somebody up, but men who really know how to get ahead.

Barbara Kawliche, Director, New Beginnings, Lewiston, ME

New Beginnings has been providing services to youth since 1980. Over the past few years, we've developed transitional living programs, community outreach programs targeted at homeless youth, educational programs, substance abuse prevention programs, HIV prevention programs, and, recently, programs working with juvenile offenders who have been released from our juvenile correctional facilities.



Gilbran McDonald, 13, Oakland Bureau; Amy Weisenbach, 17, Indianapolis Bureau

We've seen that young people have not only lost their trust in the adults around them and in adult programs, they've also lost their belief in themselves as competent people. So we've tried to involve youth in developing all of our programs, talking with them about their needs, getting them involved in program design and thereby helping them rebuild their relationships with adults and with each other.

We have an adventure-based counseling program which involves young people and adults working together to plan and then participate in Adventure Challenge Activities. We've done things like backpacking, rock climbing, and ropes courses. Coming from Maine, a weekend in New York City was one of the biggest challenges we faced.

We see the success that everybody experiences as an individual and as a group after successfully completing these trips. Once you've been with somebody 25 feet up on top of a ropes course, it's a whole lot easier to talk with that person about negotiating or to get group support for one another.

Basically, we use the elements of setting goals, working together, building trust, talking about success a lot and looking for success any place we can find it to help build relationships. Many of the young people who have left our program have come back and tried again. We're committed to welcoming people to come back and try again.

SESSION III

Leah Harrison, Assistant Director, Child Protection Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY

An act of domestic violence occurs every twelve seconds, more frequently than any other crime in the United States. Twenty-five percent of the violence occurs among people who are related. Studies of battered women have found that 50% to 75% of their children also are victims.

Children who witness violence will act out their aggressions with parents, siblings, teachers and peers. The escalating cost of caring for victims of family violence has been reported to be as much as five to ten billion dollars a year.

Child abuse is an epidemic and now recognized as a national emergency. Violence toward children is a leading cause of injury, disablement, and death among our American children.

What always amazes me is how the children adapt to their life, no matter how horrible it appears. One little boy told me that he didn't tell about how he had been abused because he didn't want to make his mommy sad. He told later, after witnessing his step-father abusing his mother. He had been victimized almost every night since his mother had married. His step-father was convicted and died in jail due to an AIDS-related illness.

AIDS is an increasing new concern for all children who are victims of sexual abuse. Now they have to cope not only with psychological scars but also with a life threatening illness and death.

Eighty percent of all sexual abuse cases are occurring in the home by parents, siblings, and other persons whom the children love and trust. In 92% of the families with a positive history of sexual abuse, the abuse actually goes back to the grandparents.

"The escalating cost of caring for victims of family violence has been reported to be as much as 5 to 10 billion dollars a year. The major flaw in the system is that we are only approaching part of the problem. We need to develop a systematic approach to the family, addressing all of the complex issues. Violence is a deadly disease. It kills in extraordinary numbers and damages other children beyond repair."

Leah Harrison, Assistant Director, Child Protection Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY

In the past few years, our program, which sees approximately six hundred new cases a year, has been seeing an increased number of young perpetrators aged eight to fourteen. Many of these children were themselves victims of abuse and now they are abusing their younger siblings.

The major flaw in the system is that we are only approaching part of the problem. We need to develop a systematic approach to the family, addressing all of the complex issues.

Children need to be taught that it's OK to say no. Families need to learn how to solve problems without violence and we need to develop preventive programs and funding throughout the country to provide services to children and families who are victims. Unless society becomes actively involved, our children will continue to live in a world of violence. Violence is a deadly disease. It kills in extraordinary numbers and damages other children beyond repair.

Paul Ebert, Commonwealth's Attorney, Prince William County, VA

While the incidence of child abuse is increasing, the incidence of reporting child abuse is increasing. That's good. Young people need to know that many of these acts are crimes.

Through schools and other programs, children are beginning to realize that there is somebody on their side, though child abuse cases are sometimes hard to prosecute. It's important for all of us in society to encourage our young people to come forward. It's important to know that prosecution doesn't always harm people.

Prevention is critical and one of the finest programs around is Healthy Families America, started in Hawaii, which helps high risk families learn how to be good parents during the first five years of their child's life.

Whatever we can do as a society to encourage our young people to come forward and report what is happening, the better off we'll be.

SESSION IV

Barbara Rawn, Executive Director, Virginians for Child Abuse Prevention, Inc., Richmond, VA

I have worked in the area of child abuse and neglect and in family violence for over thirteen years. Today I want to talk to you about a solution because we so rarely hear about actual solutions.

In 1991, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect declared that child abuse was at epidemic proportions and that they recommended home visitor programs to work with brand new moms and dads, from birth until the age of five.

I was 22 years old when I gave birth to my first child. I was a college graduate, the oldest of six children, and I was the new-born baby sitter in our town. Yet, when I brought my own baby home by myself, I was totally confused. The baby cried all night and I got so frantic that at one point I had to put my infant down and leave the room because I wanted to throw the baby against the wall. It frightened me that I even had that feeling. After a few days of complete frustration, I got a phone call from a visiting nurse who said, you just had a baby and I thought I'd like to come and talk to you and see how you're doing. That woman was like an angel of mercy to me. She really helped me get off to a good start.

And that is why the Healthy Start Program is so important. Eighty percent of the most severe cases of child abuse happen to children who are zero to five. The median age of children who die from child abuse and neglect is two-and-a-half years old. From birth to five is the most crucial age for the development of a child.

If we intervene early, when a baby is brand new, we can work with the baby and the parents before negative behavior parenting patterns begin. We go and work with hospitals and health clinics to look at records of babies being born and identify which parents have excessive stress on them and are thus at higher risk for abuse and neglect.

We find that 95% of parents who are struggling in the hospital accept voluntary home services because they want help. Then we go into the home and provide the parent with child development information and role modeling. If you were never picked up or nurtured or held as a child, you don't know how to do that with a new baby. We also connect parents with health services and Head Start programs.

In Hawaii, where the program began, 99% of the families in the program have not been reported for child abuse and neglect. That's an astounding prevention figure. There are now 26 pilot sites across the country.

> **"We know that when we nurture our children instead of hurt them, we send out into the world kids and young adults who can make appropriate choices, who are not so filled with rage that only guns and alcohol can quell that rage."**
>
> Barbara Rawn, Executive Director, Virginians for Child Abuse Prevention, Inc., Richmond, VA

In Hampton, Virginia, we have a wonderful example of how an entire community has pulled together to change the paradigm for how we support parents and how parents can ask for help. The Health Department has connected families with new borns to the Healthy Start Program; libraries have set up young family centers; churches and civic groups are offering nurturing programs for parents and children; businesses are giving employees comp time off for parenting classes; the hospital publishes a newsletter about child development; and schools are offering teen pregnancy prevention programs and mentoring programs with high school kids who talk with younger children about drugs and alcohol abuse. The impetus for all of this came from the Mayor and the City Council and business leaders who realized that if they wanted a solid community, they had to do something to support and nurture their youth.

We know that when we nurture our children instead of hurt them, we send out into the world kids and young adults who can make appropriate choices, who are not so filled with rage that only guns and alcohol can quell that rage. We can prevent child abuse. We know how to do it and we are doing it in some communities.

Phyllis Old Dog Cross, Black Hawk, SD

I was born and raised on an Indian reservation and I've spent almost all of my life working with my people, both at the reservation level and at the national level.

Of the two million American Indians in the United States, almost one-half are under the age of twenty-three. Indian people now face the same problems of violence that the rest of the nation faces. Violence in the Native American community has everyone concerned.

The problem of violence does not exist alone. Other factors are poverty, alcoholism, family dysfunction, suicide, teenage pregnancy, and dropping out of school. For the period 1982 to 1985, the alcoholism mortality rate for the American Indian was four to five times the national average; the homicide rate in 1987 was 1.6 times higher; and the suicide rate was 1.3 times higher than the whole U.S.

Children live in fear and have no protection from abuse of all kinds. They do not learn that there is a safe place in the world and they do not realize that there is a normal world that is not violent.

Suzanne Stutman, Executive Director, Channeling Parents' Anger Program, Institute for Mental Health Initiatives, Washington, DC

Violence is a complicated issue and there is no one cause of violence in America. Although anger is a natural, normal, basic human emotion, we know that chronic hostility and unresolved anger are at the root of much of the violence experienced today. We need to teach children and parents how to manage their anger.

Many children never learn how to channel their anger constructively. Aggressive or violent behaviors are learned responses to frustrations. Surveys tell us that most violent behavior in schools occurs among acquaintances and is due to long-standing disagreements, fights over material possessions, vendettas against society, or name calling and something we call disrespect or "dissing."

We all need skills that can serve to interrupt the escalation of violence. Channeling Children's Anger and Channeling Parents' Anger are two anger-management programs developed by the Institute for Mental Health Initiatives.

> **"We must get guns out of the hands of our youth and increase their level of skills so that they can manage conflict constructively. ■ It is time to address violence the way we treat other public health threats, such as smoking and drunk driving, by focusing on prevention."**
>
> Suzanne Stutman, Executive Director, Channeling Parents' Anger Program, Institute for Mental Health Initiatives, Washington, DC

Channeling Children's Anger aims to teach children and teens how to use their anger as a tool for change. Socializing children, channeling their impulses, awakening their faculties, encouraging their talents, forming positive values, redefining norms, and creating environments conducive to helping non-violent growth take a concerted effort. We must get guns out of the hands of our youth and increase their level of skills so that they can manage conflict constructively.

In the Channeling Parents' Anger program, we help parents learn skills to help them manage their own anger as well as their children's anger.

It is time to address violence the way we treat other public health threats, such as smoking and drunk driving, by focusing on prevention.

CE Debriefing

Jwahara: It seems that children everywhere are powerless and we will be powerless unless we are able to speak up and deal with what goes on around us in society.

Ilana: I think the most important thing we learned this morning is that if you're starting to get abused, you shouldn't just keep it in. You should really tell somebody because you might be able to get help.

Tony: Victims of abuse always think it's their fault and people should know that if they're being abused it's not their fault. It's whoever is abusing them, it's their fault. Children shouldn't take the blame out on themselves.

Amy: Education is really important for preventing violence and child abuse.

Ben: I agree, education is really the heart of it. If everybody knew about what violence can do and what it can cause, then we wouldn't be having these hearings in the first place.

Gibran: If people talked to one another about violence and what it has done to them personally, then a lot of people would actually understand what's going on.

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MONDAY, OCT. 25

AFTERNOON PANEL

Facilitator:
Cat Deakins, 17, New York Bureau

Reporters:
Megan Burke, 13, New York Bureau
Chela Delgado, 12, Oakland Bureau
Layeida Laguerra, 13, Washington Bureau
David Meadvin, 12, New York Bureau
Lisa Schubert, 13, Indianapolis Bureau
Kelley Smith, 13, Washington Bureau

SESSION I

Shekia McPherson, 14, P.A.C.E. (Practical and Cultural Education) Center for Girls, Dade County, Miami, FL

When I was seven years old, I overheard my mother's boyfriend say to her, "If I can't have you no one else can." My mother took his words for a joke and started laughing.

The next day, I witnessed my mother's death right before my eyes. I saw him pull out a gun and put it to my mother's stomach and he pulled the trigger and shot my mother and she fell to the ground. I started crying and I was holding my mother's head and he said it was an accident.

It wasn't an accident. He did it on purpose because my mother would not go with him. He said that he didn't try to shoot her, he said the gun went off, but I seen it. He's still out on the streets and I do not have a mother.

Dominique Stevens, 13, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Dade County

Many of my problems began with my mother when my parents separated. My mother and I began to have numerous verbal altercations. One day, I really felt frustrated and I lost control and hit her. My mother then pressed charges against me. I went to court on an aggravated assault charge and was placed in home detention.

P.A.C.E. has let me realize that I am strong enough to overcome all of the obstacles that have been thrown at me. The counseling has helped me to realize that there is a way, and that, no matter how bad things get for you, there will always be somebody there for you.

At P.A.C.E. you get individual counseling and they take the time out with you so that you understand what's going on. There's adult expertise and there's children expertise. We learn from them and they learn from us, so it's, like, both ways.

Mary Cherry, Executive Director, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Dade County

The P.A.C.E. Center for Girls in Dade County is located in, and most of our girls come from, inner city Miami. Ninety-five percent of our students come from low income families and, for some, P.A.C.E. is like the last stop before detention.

Every student who walks through our doors has experienced some sort of violence in her life. And yet, no matter how badly some of our young folks have been treated by their parents or other relatives or adults who've been given custody of them, they have this great capacity for love. Their capacity for love is just amazing to me.

> **"No matter how badly some of our young folks have been treated by their parents or other relatives or adults who've been given custody of them, they have this great capacity for love. Their capacity for love is just amazing to me."**
>
> Mary Cherry, Executive Director, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Dade County, Miami, FL

How does one small program like P.A.C.E. try to make a difference in these kids' lives, to say violence is not the answer, pulling guns and knives on each other is not the answer? Sometimes it's very difficult. It's very difficult to teach conflict resolution because you're proposing things the kids have never heard about before.

So far, in our first year of existence in Dade County, we have some pretty good statistics of kids who have really turned around. Shekia and Dominique are two beautiful examples right here next to me.

Vicki Burke, Founder, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Inc., Jacksonville, FL

We started in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1985 as an alternative to incarceration. P.A.C.E. stands for Practical and Cultural Education. We are a non-residential, community-based program. It's gender sensitive. Most of the girls in our program have experienced sexual abuse. We spend a lot of time focusing on exactly what young women's needs are because they are different oftentimes from young boys' needs.

Girls generally are more self-destructive. They hurt themselves, they run away, they become pregnant, they get hooked up with older guys, they start doing

drugs, they become prostitutes. Guys, on the other hand, sort of take it out on the community and, because we as citizens want to be safe, we yell and scream for facilities for boys.

Because we were so successful in Jacksonville, juvenile judges around the state of Florida have asked us to expand. We also have requests to go outside of the state.

SESSION II

Rosemarie Perez, 13, Brooklyn, NY

My mom was 13 when I was born. When I was five, my mom moved out from my dad's house and we moved in with my stepfather, Joe. We were with him a couple of months when he started showing active violence to my brother and my mom and I.

He started beating us with bats and sticks and wires. He threatened us with knives and scissors. My brother used to get whipped with a belt. He used to have his hands put over the stove on the flame.

My mother used to get punched in the stomach, slapped in the face and get her head banged into the wall where there was a screw. She had tons of holes in her skull where blood always came out from her getting her head banged into the wall.

One day, when I was eight years old, my mom decided that she couldn't take it any more so she decided to move out. We moved in with my aunt and one morning Joe came and told my mom that he'd like to speak to her privately at eight o'clock sharp in the evening.

He told her she didn't need to bring any weapons or anything because it wasn't necessary, he wasn't going to try anything. She believed him and when eight o'clock came she didn't take anything with her. She went and spoke with him. They were outside for about a half an hour and we didn't hear from her again.

A week later, we go to a funeral and my dad says, kiss the body in the coffin and pray for the lady, but he doesn't tell us who's in there. When I walked up and looked at the body I noticed it's my mother. I started screaming and shouting. I started picking her up by her neck, grabbing her by her dress on the collar and telling her to wake up. I'm slapping her in the face and telling her, "Wake up, mom, wake up." Why is she laying there? And everyone was just sitting there, crying.

After the funeral, my father sits me and my brother down in the car and he tells us that my stepfather Joe had stabbed my mother 23 times to death back and front on all sides of her body. He cut her on the forehead with the knife, stabbed her once in the heart, and broke her neck.

Jose Perez, 11, Brooklyn, NY

I don't feel comfortable talking about my mother, so I'm just going to talk about what happened afterwards.

After my mother died, they took us to a foster care agency in Harlem and after that we were sent to a foster home. The lady over there was nice but her daughters were 16 and 19 and they both used to beat me up so from there I called the agency and told them, "I don't want to be there no more."

> **"My philosophy is that you take people where they are and try to enhance their functioning. You don't make a value judgement and say, You're a bad parent. We need to stop punishing people for having problems. There's an enormous potential for growth and healing in this country if we can focus on people who need help and give them some kind of future. We need a national effort."**
>
> James Bonczek, Social Worker, New York, NY

James Bonczek, Social Worker, New York, NY

Abuse is an inter-generational thing. We live in a society that demands more and more out of us every year. The amount of pressure that's on parents today is much more than it was ten or 20 years ago. We have this kind of pressure cooker society that puts people out there on the edge.

I work in ten classes in nine schools. I spend a half a day with each class and the amount of work is unbelievable. But you don't see anyone in the City of New York funding more social workers or increasing new programs. There's a tremendous need out there and nobody has been addressing it for the past thirteen years.

My philosophy is that you take people where they are and try to enhance their functioning. You don't make a value judgment and say, you're a bad parent. You take the family where they are and try to provide some kind of services that will enhance their functioning and stop punishing people for having problems.

You need to give kids survival skills. You have to teach kids how to communicate. You have to do all

of the things that are necessary to make functioning human beings because these are the parents of tomorrow.

There's an enormous potential for growth and healing in this country if we can focus on people who need help and give them some kind of future. We need a national effort. I'm old enough to remember the sixties and the war on poverty and the great optimism that people had about the future, that we could overcome the barrier of poverty. I'm hoping that something like that can happen again.

CE Examiners

Q: Mr. Bonczek, are Rosemarie and Jose a typical case you work on?

Rosemarie Perez, 13

Bonczek: No. One day their real father came to me with a letter from the foster care agency that said they were trying to terminate his parental rights. I told him what he needed to do. He did it, the children came back, he's been very nurturing toward these children, and they are doing remarkably well.

Q: Rosemarie, what was your relationship like with your mother before she died?

Rosemarie: I didn't have a relationship with her. I basically didn't even know her. She was never around. My brother and I lived alone and my step-father and mother would just come into the house whenever they wanted to. We had to go to a friend's house or to my aunt's house to eat dinner and we ate breakfast and lunch in school.

Jose: I didn't really have a relationship with her because every time we used to go with her, like to my aunt's house, there were crowds and she never used to pay attention to us. She used to be all into herself, thinking of herself. I loved her, though, because she was the only mom I had even though she never paid attention to us. She used to let us roam around the street and she used to disappear so we would stay in the street waiting for her. We wouldn't see her for, like, two or three hours and we'd be outside in the rain waiting for her, waiting for her, but she would never come.

Q: If you could say right now one thing to your mother, what would you say to her?

Rosemarie: I'm pretty much stuck on my words. She wasn't really a mom to me. I loved her, but she was a stranger. When my friends ask me what I think about my mom, I don't know what I think about her. She was never there.

Q: Rosemarie, when you are older, how will you treat your children if you have any?

Rosemarie: When I'm older, I want to move to the country-side and raise my children with love and caring. I want to always be there for them and I'm hoping that I turn out to be a parent who could appreciate her child and not abuse them the way I was abused when I was growing up.

SESSION III

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

I believe there has got to be a far greater balance between punishment and prevention. It is important for us to develop alternative programs that operate on a carrot and stick approach. Many people are in prison because of drug abuse and too often they don't get drug treatment.

Youngsters have got to know that there is no excuse for putting a gun up-side somebody's head and

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hurting them, that there's going to be punishment that meets the crime, that's fair.

My concern after 15 years as a prosecutor in Dade County is that we could do so much to prevent crime and we don't. Drugs, teen pregnancy, youth gangs, the teen violence that we see are symptoms of deeper problems in our society. Far too often in the last thirty years, America has forgotten and neglected its children.

It's imperative that we all join together to provide for balanced punishment and prevention and to develop a national agenda for children. We must start at the beginning and provide a comprehensive opportunity for children to grow as strong, constructive human beings.

We must do everything possible to make sure that parents are old enough, wise enough, and financially able to take care of their children. I think parenting skills should be covered in our schools. We've got to free parents' time to be with their children. If employers throughout America can figure out how they can free both parents' time to be with their children in quality time, we can make this a more productive nation.

All children in America should have the opportunity to have preventive medical care. It's imperative that we focus on ages zero to five. What good are prisons fifteen years from now if the child doesn't have the foundation built in up front?

It's imperative that we develop safe, constructive educare that is as much a part of the educational system as K through 12 is now. We must also free our teachers' time to teach. It is imperative that we develop programs after school and in the evening for our children, and not just sports!

I'd like to see a truancy prevention program that includes a team of a social worker, a public health nurse, and a police officer who can visit the home, find out why the child is truant, and do something about it at eight or nine years old, before the child becomes a delinquent at twelve or thirteen.

When I ask children who have been in trouble what could have prevented their getting into trouble, they tell me two things again and again. First, if there was something for them to do in the afternoons and evenings when nobody was paying attention to them, it would have made a tremendous difference. Second, and almost more important, they desperately wanted somebody they could talk to. Somebody who didn't put them down, who didn't hassle them, who listened to them and understood. Somebody who treated them firmly, but fairly.

Jobs are extremely important and you don't just get a job if you don't have the skills. I would love to see our high schools link aptitude and interest with summer work programs and school programs that would enable a child to follow a track from seventh grade on that would give them the knowledge that if they followed that course, they could graduate with a skill that would enable them to earn a living wage.

> **"I want to try to do what I can to give children an opportunity to contribute. There is so much that we can do on the streets of America, galvanizing the tremendous energy and the great desire of young people in America to contribute, to be somebody, to be a part of making America a better place. We have got to teach all people, beginning in our elementary schools, how to resolve conflicts without using knives and fists and guns."**
>
> Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

Finally, I want to try to do what I can to give children an opportunity to contribute. There is so much that we can do on the streets of America, galvanizing the tremendous energy and the great desire of young people in America to contribute, to be somebody, to be a part of making America a better place.

CE Examiners

Q: What efforts can be put forth to prevent youths from being able to get guns easily?

Reno: One of the first things that we have to do is to make sure that the Brady Bill gets passed in this Congress. The American people want it. There is no earthly reason why somebody should be able to go in and get a gun without an appropriate background check being done.

Second, it's critical that the ban on assault weapons be enacted into law.

The proposal to ban handguns in the hands of youngsters unless they are properly supervised is another critical step in the right direction.

But these efforts by themselves will not be enough. We have got to teach all people, beginning in our elementary schools, how to resolve conflicts without using knives and fists and guns.

I think it's also important that the television industry get with it and follow through on its promises to do something about gratuitous violence on TV.

Q: Do you think kids in violent areas are justified to be violent, having grown up with guns and drugs and all kinds of violence surrounding them?

Reno: One of the most important steps we have to take is to let everyone know, whether they be young or old, that there is no excuse for violence. There's no excuse for hurting somebody else. There's no excuse for taking a gun and putting it up beside somebody's head and hurting them. Not poverty, not broken homes, not anything.

At the same time, punishment by itself will not be satisfactory. To send them back to the community without having addressed the problems, the educational deficiencies, or the drug problems, or the severe emotional problems that they have, without intervening to provide a safer, more positive home life, is only going to result in a repetition of the crimes.

SESSION IV

Juanita Ansell, 16, Bethel Bible Village, Hixon, TN

In 1989, my father was accused of sexually abusing four young boys. He was put in jail and I lived with my mother for about six months and that didn't work out because we didn't get along very well. Later, we found out my mother was suffering from multiple personality disorder.

I was admitted voluntarily to Bethel Bible Village, where I found out that somebody truly cared about me. They really didn't have a list of expectations, they just wanted me to be proud of myself and of who I was. One of the best things that I got at Bethel was one-on-one counseling, which I got weekly and still have.

I've learned that if you work hard, you can get somewhere. Before I came to Bethel, I always thought that once you are born this way, this is how you have to be, you can't change anything. But you can change and I know now I don't have to be like my parents.

In the future, I hope to go to college and help others like myself and like others I've met at Bethel. I want to speak out against how kids are treated.

A lot of times when their parents are incarcerated and put in jail, a lot of people think it's the kids' fault and the kids get blamed for what their parents have done. I want to speak out against that.

> **"I had always thought before I came to Bethel that once you are born this way, this is how you have to be, you can't change anything. But you can change and I know now I don't have to be like my parents."**
>
> Juanita Ansell, 16, Bethel Bible Village, Hixon, TN

Melissa Sarabia, Social Worker, Bethel Bible Village

Bethel is a residential group home for children whose parents are incarcerated. We try to meet with the family, if that's possible. Frequently, that is not possible because the child is already in state custody and it may be an emergency situation where they have to be placed immediately.

In the histories of our children's families, there are cycles of abuse going back a long way, so our goal is to intervene with the kids while they are with us and provide counseling and any kind of services we can to break that cycle of abuse

Gary Behler, Director of Program Services, Bethel Bible Village

We serve the southeast Tennessee area and the North Georgia region. We are a non-denominational Christian Children's Home that's 90% privately funded. The remaining 10% of our funding comes from the state of Tennessee for child care beds.

What we find is that normally there is a cycle of crime that continues throughout the family. We try to meet the needs of children who often are the forgotten victims of crime. These are innocent children who are often blamed for the sins of their parents.

We have eight cottages—four for boys and four for girls—and each one is staffed with a married house parent couple and a single assistant who are role models for the children.

Most of our kids come to us two grades behind academically. They generally are far behind in school because no one has taken time to follow up on homework or to provide for their basic needs, let alone academic counseling. So we provide tutoring as needed and identify what their potential is so we can try to match them up to a vocational program or a college preparatory program or something in between.

We also discovered that there was not a single facility in the Chattanooga area that met the needs of teen mothers who wanted to keep their babies. So we've started a mother-child cottage for four mothers and four babies to teach them three things: parenting skills, how to avoid a repeat pregnancy, and how to meet the requirements for a GED or finish their high school diplomas.

If we can teach teenage mothers, who are children themselves, to become good parents, and to break

that cycle, then perhaps we can keep them from losing their children to state custody and winding up back at Bethel in the year 2000.

CE Debriefing

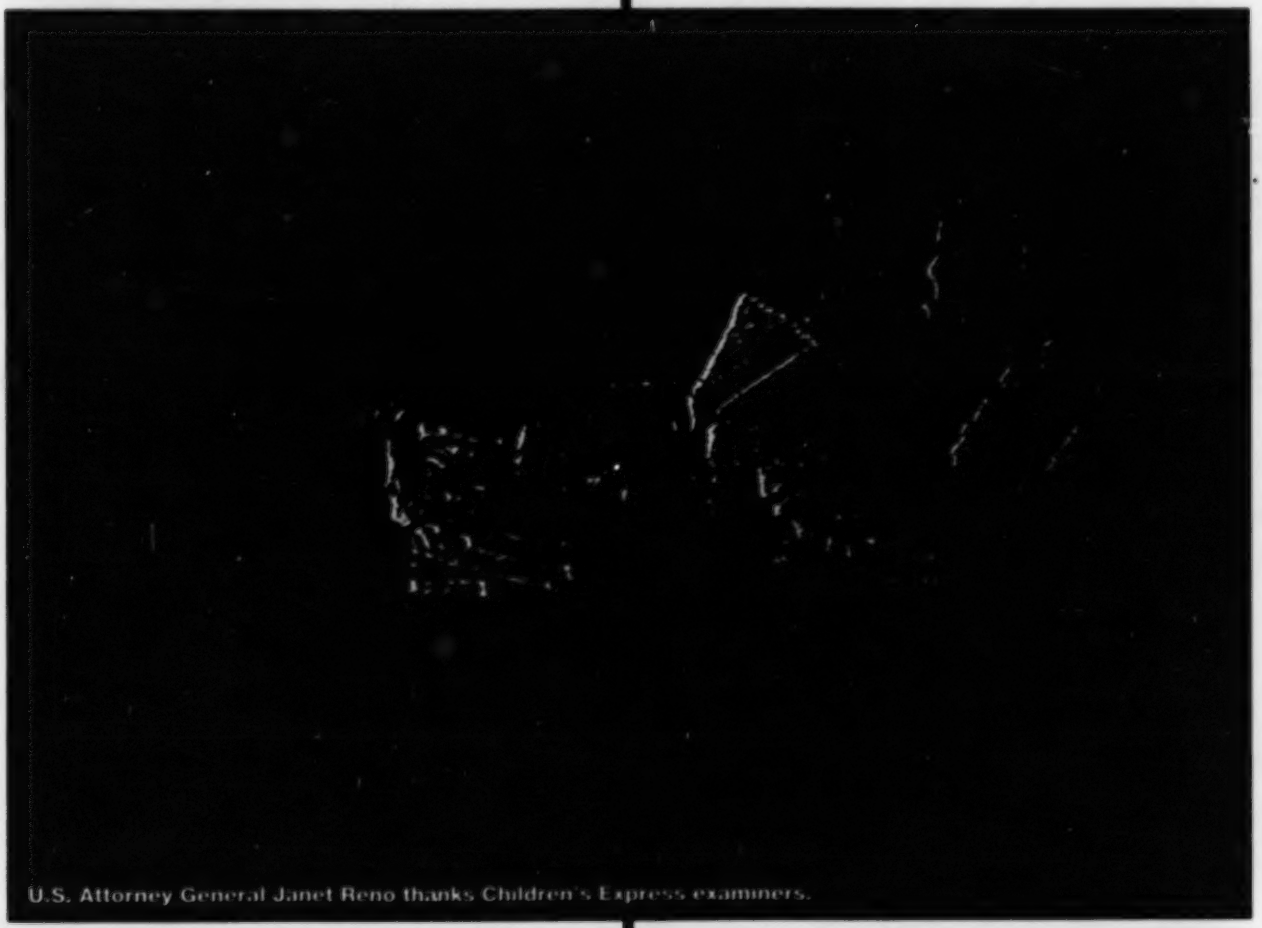
Lisa: Most of the panelists mentioned that the government can't do everything. It has to start with the individual in solving violence.

Cheia: A lot of having non-violent children begins in the home.

Cat: There's a big need for individual attention to children and for counseling.

Megan: Another similarity that I found among a lot of the witnesses who had been abused is that they wanted to help people, to be social workers or child psychologists when they grow up. I think that is another important step in trying to break the cycle. If these kids are making it so that they won't abuse their kids when they are older even though they've been abused, then I think that is going to be a really big step.

David: I think that it was very important that all of the panelists stressed that they had real hope for the future. That's a major part of what these hearings are for, to raise hope.



U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno thanks Children's Express examiners.

David: Parents are the most important part and if they say that violence is OK, then it will be OK.

Cheia: Generally, the reason that adults abuse their children or their spouses is because they were abused and their parents before them. Somewhere the cycle needs to be broken.

Layeida: Every kid panelist commented that they always had a place to go, there was a program or somewhere to go where they could be helped with their problem. So no matter what problem there is in your life, don't be scared or afraid to come forth and have someone help you to get over it.

Cheia: If someone who's had so many problems and knows how bad it can be can feel like that, then the rest of us should be able to have hope too.

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MORNING PANEL

Facilitator:
Kristen Crockett, 16, Washington Bureau

Reporters:
Cindy Dyar, 13, Indianapolis Bureau
Jacki Fisher, 12, Washington Bureau
Sam Mende-Wong, 10, Oakland Bureau
Daniel Saunders, 10, Washington Bureau
Megan White, 14, Indianapolis Bureau
Sasha Whyte, 13, New York Bureau

SESSION I

Robin Keys, Case Manager, City Lights School, Washington, DC

Kids are shooting each other. Kids are abusing each other. Kids are doing all the violent things to each other that adults have done to each other. They are emulating adults. We need to move away from that and teach children and adolescents how to resolve conflicts, how to deal with their frustrations and anxieties in a non-violent manner.

Even when a child has done some very violent things, we look at that child for who they are when they come through our door and we see that this is a person who has been abused. This is someone who's been neglected or abandoned. Then we can kind of take that kid apart and look at him and say, OK, there's something to salvage here. I think that's the important part, because we can't operate on fear. If we operate on fear, we can't do our job. You have to have a relationship with each kid.

You have to go where they are. A lot of times when students come into City Lights, they can't trust right away. Because adults have done so many things to them, have taken so many things away from them, it's hard for them to trust.

When students leave City Lights, we see a bond. We see students ready to trust us. We see students who can hold their heads up. These are students who will do more than survive. They will keep jobs and they will be productive citizens.

> **"We try to build the parent up, just like we do the child, because if there's a troubled child, there's also troubled parents. ■ When we talk about family, we need to be able to break down the barriers of that traditional concept of what family is and reach out to all those people who may be involved in a child's life."**
>
> Robin Keys, Case Manager, City Lights School, Washington, DC

When students don't come to school, we call home. We call every day if we have to. But we also call home when students are doing something good. A lot of times the only involvement with the school system that the parents have had has been very negative. So we try to build the parent up, just like we do the child, because if there's a troubled child, there's also troubled parents.

When we talk about family, we need to be able to break down the barriers of that traditional concept of what family is and reach out to all those people who may be involved in a child's life. Each one plays a part in determining what type of person that child will become.

A couple of years ago somebody referred to this generation as a lost generation and I think that when you look at the resilience of these young people, you have to have respect for the fact that they are trying to survive.

Yasmeen Nixon, 19, Student, City Lights School

City Lights is like a home to me. It's like a place where you can go if you need to discuss things with other people. Like if you really have things on your mind and you need to talk them over before you do anything wrong or disruptive or that will cause trouble, go talk to Miss Keys. She'll be there to help you.

Preston Vereen, 18, Student, City Lights School

City Lights changed me a lot because when I first came I was disrespectful, loud, I never wanted to come. And when I got there, they worked with me. I had a lot of problems and they worked them out with me. I learned it's important to listen and to take time out to try.

Ron Pettiway, Staff Supervisor, City Lights School

Violence among students is not something they're born with. It's others' behaviors they're modeling. At City Lights we try to model non-violent behavior. We try to prevent fights. We try to prevent violence by using all types of strategies. We empower the students to negotiate.

City Lights was designed to help kids who cannot make it in a conventional education center. That is our mission, to be a program for children at risk, for children who are in trouble.

SESSION II

Miguel Sanchez, 15, New Directions, New York, NY

I know what violence is because I live with it every day. I have seen people get robbed, shot, or even beat up just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Some people believe that violence will stop "if we can just get along," to quote Rodney King. But a lot of people don't believe that because they have not seen any action or help from the government or the police.

People are angry and confused. It doesn't even seem to matter if you take the guns away because kids can always get another one as easy as they got the first one.

This summer I experienced something no one likes to talk about. A friend of mine was shot right in front of me and my friends. Some were scared of being shot and ran. The ones who stayed, including me, were afraid of getting shot too, but we wouldn't leave our friend, Leslie, who was shot and bleeding. I ran for the ambulance. I was scared, mad, and lucky, because the man didn't shoot at us. He ran into the building instead.

When I came back with the ambulance, I felt like it was too late. What I remember most were her eyes because she looked at me as if she wanted to say something, but couldn't. I held her hand and I felt her grabbing my hand tighter. She kept looking at me and all I could say was I'm sorry, as if I had been the one who shot her.

She died in the hospital a week later. How the incident got started doesn't really matter. There are really no good reasons for shooting people. Just a lot of people with guns and bad tempers.

Kids today believe that having a gun in their bag is something to be proud of. My message to them is the only thing a gun really gets you is trouble. I usually don't get into fights or don't get close to people because usually when I get close to someone either they move or I lose them by violence in the street. I had a friend, he got shot. I saw him in the morgue. But I didn't see him. I only saw his body.

Violence is not something you want to experience, even once, and never on a daily basis. You become afraid of going outside to play because of fear of getting beat up or accidentally shot. When I wake up in the morning, I ask myself, am I going to survive this day? So every day I try to make it seem as if it was my last day on this earth. So far, I've been lucky. I don't know when my luck is going to run out.

> **"Kids today believe that having a gun in their bag is something to be proud of. My message to them is the only thing a gun really gets you is trouble. ■ I had a friend, he got shot. I saw him in the morgue. But I didn't see him. I only saw his body."**
>
> Miguel Sanchez, 15, New Directions, New York, NY

Peter Blauvelt, Director of Security, Prince George's County Public Schools, MD

The issue I would like to address is fear. There's no single issue that has a greater impact on children than the issue of fear. Fear is insidious. It robs us of our ability to plan, to be spontaneous, to be free. It adversely affects one's ability to learn, to concentrate, and to participate.

It matters little if a school may have some of the finest, most dedicated teachers in the world if fear stalks the halls and the bathrooms and the locker rooms and the stairways of a school.

Once fear is present, very definable activities will take place. Students will stop using bathrooms. Sections of the school will become no man's land. More students will show up in the nurse's office with undefined ailments. Weapons will increase. If gangs were not present they will form for protection. Teacher and student absenteeism will increase. Extra-curricular activities will be curtailed and more time will be spent controlling students' movements than in academic work. All of this because fear exists in a school.

Schools must adopt a zero tolerance for fear and fear inducing events.

The whole concept of teaching mediation skills to young people is the brightest hope that I have seen in a number of years. It means truly teaching life-saving skills and I don't think we have any other alternative. If we can address the reason why kids fight and find an acceptable alternative to fighting, then I think we will have gone a long way toward reducing conflict and fear in our schools.

Dr. Hope Hill, Professor, Howard University, Washington, DC

I work with children who have witnessed violence in their communities. We also develop violence prevention programs to help children avoid actual involvement in violence. Children who witness a lot of violence in the community are more likely to have problems in school.

In many neighborhoods around the country, as Miguel has described, children see crimes committed against people almost every day in the street. Sometimes the first place that children see

violence is at home in fights between parents and between parents and children. Most children also have seen a great deal of violence on television.

After witnessing a great deal of violence, children may begin to feel helpless or that they have no future. Sometimes after witnessing violence, children can tend to be quick to react to situations. They don't stop to think or try to problem solve.

What can you do to address these problems when you witness this type of violence? First, let an adult know. Tell them what you've seen. Talk to them about it. If you can anticipate that there's going to be a fight, get away from that situation.

If violence is actually occurring in your home between your parents, talk to them about how sad and frightened it makes you feel and ask them to stop. If they don't stop, talk to another adult whom you trust and who can help you and your parents.

Working together, we really can reduce violence in our neighborhoods. Nobody deserves to live amidst violence.

SESSION III

Domico Curry, 20, Seattle Youth Involvement, Seattle, WA

In order to stop the violence, we must address it at all levels, starting from the home to the schools to the federal agencies that are out there helping youth.

> **"I believe that if a community can come together, work together and play together, the youth of the nation will be saved. ■ I believe that we need to look at each youth as an individual, even that kid with a gun is a kid. We have to be community parents rather than saying, that boy's not mine. ■ We have to break down that barrier of neighborhoods — the situation where it's not happening in one neighborhood but it's happening in another neighborhood and it's not gonna happen in my neighborhood."**
>
> Domico Curry, 20, Seattle Youth Involvement

Youth need jobs. When we start addressing the issue of violence, jobs play a key part. Many youth live in drug-addicted homes. Many youth want to get that fast money instead of making that hard-earned $4.25.

The place that was once safe for youth to go to to get an education now has turned into a battle zone. Parents must play a key part in each child's future. If kids live in homes where the parents are drug addicted, they don't have role models. A lot of youth are born without a chance.

When I ran the streets with gangs in Seattle, I watched a lot of my friends get buried. By the time I graduated from high school, half of my friends were either locked up or six feet under ground.

We all have to band together. The community must come together and work closely with the agencies in parenting the children. I believe that if a community can come together, work together and play together, the youth of the nation will be saved.

Anna Salamone-Consoli, Principal, Bulkeley High School, Hartford, CT

I'm the principal of one of the three high schools in Hartford, Connecticut, better known to my students as Mama Consoli. Hartford is currently faced with a mandatory curfew, involving state troopers and Project Liberty, because of the rise in gang activities.

These gangs are often directed from outside the school. Their leaders are much older and all they talk about is violence. My students fall into three categories: those who have chosen to participate in gangs; those who are either thinking about joining gangs or are being approached, coerced, and intimidated into joining; and those who've been victimized or physically hurt because they do not want to participate in gangs.

The school needs to be the center of the community. We need to band with the people, with organizations, with state officials to make sure that children are safe and protected, not only within our walls, but outside on the street. Keeping the school safe is probably taking 90% of my time these days. But I do it willingly and I do it with commitment because I realize that only with a safe school are children able to live and fulfill their dreams of an education and a bright future.

I always knew that I would be a surrogate parent and I've created what is called The Bulkeley Family. It's a family that oftentimes replaces the child's own family at home because that one is non-existent.

I also am a major negotiator. I negotiate peace and truce among gang members. I negotiate with individuals who are out on street corners to be sure that our school is a safe haven for students.

I'm also a soothsayer. By reading the streets, by reading the cars that go by, by reading the groups that assemble at dismissal time, I can almost predict what is going to happen and avert it if necessary.

We have to face that we have a problem. We have to face that children are in crisis right now all over the United States, whether they're from very wealthy backgrounds or very poor backgrounds.

Your small voices need to be joined in one loud voice of outrage. Children face violence every day, in the home, on the streets, in schools. Your little voices and your gentle voices need to unite to make this *country realize that children have to be a priority.*

CE Examiners

Q: For Domico, what are you doing to bring up your son in a good community?

Mr. Curry: I believe that we need to look at each youth as an individual, even that kid with a gun is a kid. We have to be community parents rather than saying, that boy's not mine. We have to say, yes, he is a young kid in my community and I don't want to see my community go down so I'll take him in as a person of my family and treat him like one. If the community becomes more aware of that sense of mind, I think a lot of violence within the community will go down.

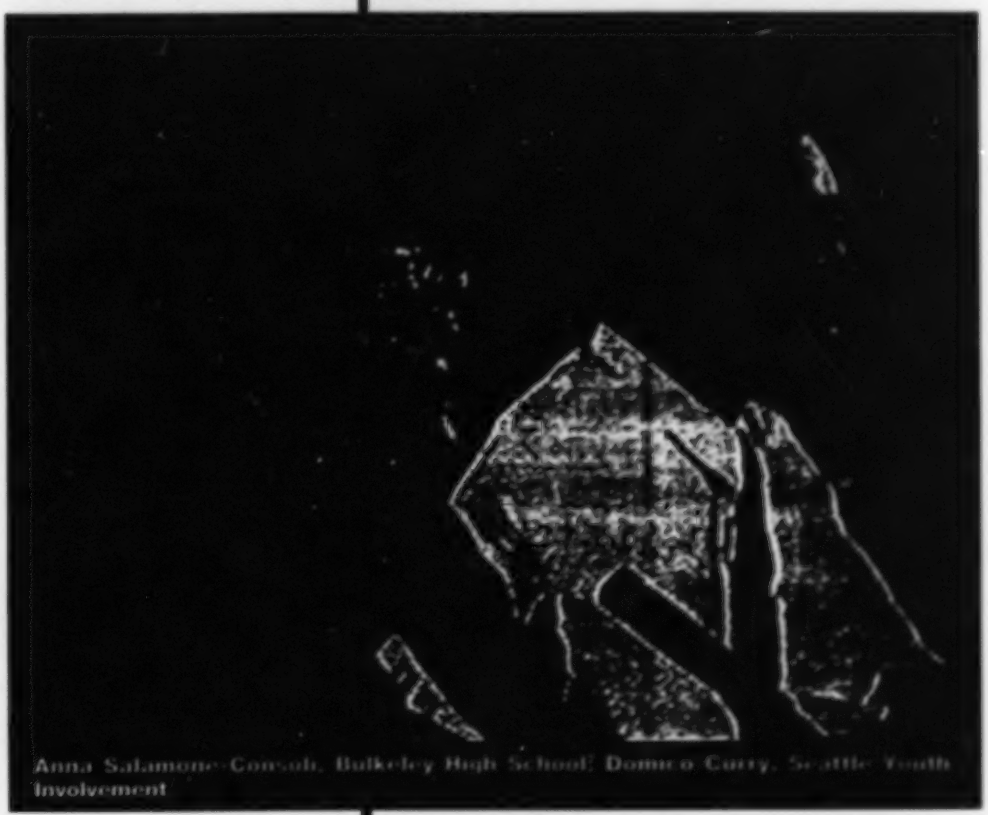
Q: Ms. Consoli, in 1940 the top three problems in schools were talking in class, chewing gum, and making noise. In 1993, the top three problems in schools are teen suicide, assault, and robbery. What do you think about these statistics and what will they be twenty years from now?

Ms. Consoli: I concur with those statistics, they are the major issues at this point. Would it not be wonderful if, twenty years from now, science and math and political savvy would be the top three issues! But if we do not stem the tide, violence will probably become the top priority. Homeless children also will be right up there. Possibly, we will have to deal with a whole population that will have had some experience in the penal system.

Q: How do you negotiate with the drug dealers and gang members?

Ms. Consoli: I don't believe in negotiation with the drug dealers. When I first came to the school, I declared the area around the school a no drug dealer zone. I would approach the cars and tell them, in a very nice way, that the school belonged to the students and I would appreciate it if they would leave. Oftentimes they started to show their muscle, but I always had the support of one student or another who would inform them that I was the principal and to do what I was saying. So we have been able to clear the streets around the school of the drug dealers.

Q: Aren't you ever afraid of being shot by a drug dealer?



Anna Salamone-Consoli, Bulkeley High School; Domico Curry, Seattle Youth Involvement

Ms. Consoli: Well, that's the commitment I made when I became principal. I'm committed to non-violence to the point where I may have to die a violent death and so be it. Right now I need to protect the 1,800 students who are in the school. And I need to do whatever it takes to make sure that I can be a role model against the negatives in our society.

Q: Mr. Curry, what were the reasons for starting your program?

Mr. Curry: The reason for starting the program was that a lot of us were tired of seeing our friends die. A lot of us were tired of seeing our friends being hauled off to jail. We wanted to save a generation of youth. I was in the gangs that Anna mentioned. And we really felt bad. We were like the cause of all the violence and it could have been stopped.

The purpose of my group is to give male role models and female role models to the younger generation. We also find ourselves being counselors. If there's a problem, youth can stop the problem because youth will listen to youth. We can relate to the problems that the younger ones are going through.

Q: Mr. Curry, when I was reading about your story, the first thing that came to me was, if he had a violent childhood, where is he getting all these ideas and why is he so positive? So that's what I wanted to know.

Mr. Curry: It was always there...they just chipped away at the rough edges. A teacher once sat me down and told me, you know the life you're leading, the way you're going, you're going to wind up dead. And he asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, and I told him I wanted to be the President of the United States. And he laughed, but he said, "You can be that if you want to be that." He said, "Only you can make a difference, but on the route you're going, you'll never make it." He said, "You'll be lucky if you make it past 18." And so that's what made me change.

Q: How can other youth get their rough edges chipped away so that they'll be able to lead a better life?

Mr. Curry: I think that's going to come from a lot of different ways. But first, a youth has to acknowledge that there's a problem and that he wants to change, because if he doesn't want to change, then you can't change him.

Q: What types of solutions do you see to our current situation with violence?

Mr. Curry: We have to break down that barrier of neighborhoods – the situation where it's not happening in one neighborhood but it's happening in another neighborhood and it's not gonna happen in my neighborhood.

Next, would have to be coming from community based organizations. A lot of them get all wrapped up in worrying about not having enough money to fund the programs that help kids, but actually, you don't need so much money. You just need to care. You need the heart, and that's where the next step will have to come from.

Then you need an understanding from youth that they can make a difference. They can stop a lot of the violence that goes on because they know who did it.

Ms. Consoli: I think it goes back to the community. Is the community willing to take the streets back? Is the school community willing to say no, this is a building where children will not live in fear? This is about education. This is about listening to youth. It's about nurturing. It is not a place where people are going to be intimidated or people are going to be hurt.

> **"We have to face that we have a problem. We have to face that children are in crisis right now all over the United States, whether they're from very wealthy backgrounds or very poor backgrounds. ■ it goes back to the community. Is the community willing to take the streets back? Is the school community willing to say no, this is a building where children will not live in fear. This is about education. This is about listening to youth. It's about nurturing. ■ My first wish is that children would become a priority in this world. If children would become a priority, then everything else would come in place. ■ Your small voices need to be joined in one loud voice of outrage."**
>
> Anna Salamone-Consoli, Principal, Bulkeley High School, Hartford, CT

Community agencies need to band together to be sure that we're not piecemealing our services, that we are really making one whole effort, a holistic effort, to deal with the whole child rather than to deal with mental health issues and physical issues and violence issues separately.

As adults, we need to make a commitment. If we have to turn out in the streets at school dismissal to be sure that our children are safe, then we have to line the streets with adults who are willing to take a stand on behalf of children. Many children don't have places to go at dismissal time. They don't have comfortable homes or homes where there's some peace. Many of them go into environments where there's a continuation of violence. It's a lot safer to be out in the street with a group of your friends who are going to band around you and protect your interests. For many children, the only lullaby they hear are gun shots at night.

Q: If each of you had three wishes, what would they be?

Mr. Curry: My first wish would be to have stiffer gun laws, to get the guns out of the hands of youth and also out of the hands of adults. My second wish

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would be just to end violence, period. And my third wish is that maybe I'll live to see my son grow.

Ms. Consoli: My first wish is that children would become a priority in this world. If children would become a priority, then everything else would come in place. For my second wish, I suppose I really have to be selfish and say that I'd have unlimited funds to be able to address any issue I want in my school. My third wish is that, as I look into my heart and see the names of every single student I've ever dealt with etched there, I would be guaranteed that they would fulfill their dreams and become productive adults.

Children's Express examiners Sam Mende-Wong, 10; Sasha Whyte, 14; Megan White, 11; Kristen Crockett, 16; Daniel Saunders, 10; Jacki Fisher, 12; Cindy Dyar, 13

CE Debriefing

Jacki: I feel that more people really do need alternative programs because not everyone is totally bad. Most people can change if they have the opportunity to do so.

Megan: I agree with what Jacki was saying, but I also think that if you're adult enough to do the crime, you should be adult enough to do the time. So it's kind of hard for me to decide between alternative programs and incarceration.

Sasha: All I've ever heard about is that kids who have gone into jail, and were put in with adults who have done worse crimes, came out even worse. I have never heard of any kid coming out of jail any better.

Jacki: The current situation is not the greatest, it's very bad, but with alternative programs such as City Lights and things like that to help people get back on the right track, I think they can help and be a solution to the problem of violence that we're having to live with right now.

Sasha: Before these hearings, I was basically angry at adults because in my city children are put on the back burner. But now that I hear that people are actually making these alternative programs, it really does show that adults do care and that they are not willing to just put kids in jail or in a detention facility and let whatever happens to them happen.

Sam: I think the hearings have been kind of sad because we've seen abused children and people who have been shot or witnessed violence. So it's been kind of sad, but there are people out there who are trying to stop the violence.

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TUESDAY, OCT. 26

AFTERNOON PANEL

Facilitator:
Matt White, 15, Indianapolis Bureau

Reporters:
Reniqua Allen, 12, New York Bureau
Tony Dale, 13, Indianapolis Bureau
Julia Hastings-Black, 11, Washington Bureau
Gibran McDonald, 13, Oakland Bureau
Ilana Novick, 9, New York Bureau
Ben Young, 12, Indianapolis Bureau

SESSION I

Sherrod Harris, 18, Facing History and Ourselves Program, Chicago, IL

High school for me was a scary situation. I was afraid of the big city after living with my grandparents for five years in a small town in Mississippi. I imagined Calvin Park High School as a big building full of geniuses. And I was a straight A student in grammar school.

The first week of school an argument between two people that I didn't even know got me involved in a racist fight that quickly escalated into a gang war. As I was leaving the school building, the left side of my face was struck by a right hand with enough force to stagger me. I didn't know this person but I was enraged and we fought all the way down to the corner of the block. When I got there I realized what he hit me for. On the corner I saw a big fight taking place between a large group of blacks and Puerto Ricans.

> **"The true way is to talk it out. People don't have to resort to violence to solve different means of disagreements. That to me is very barbaric. Talk, man, that's all you have to do is just talk."**
>
> Sherrod Harris, 18, Facing History and Ourselves Program, Chicago, IL

At that moment I thought I might as well fight with the blacks, since the Hispanics were going to come after me anyway. I thought this way I would have some help. It was crazy. People were fighting in the streets, on the sidewalks, in cars, in alleys, anywhere they could find.

After fighting that day, I knew going back to school wouldn't be easy, but I could not give them the satisfaction of knowing I was scared, which I was. Plus, my mom didn't know a thing about the fight. So I had to go back to school so she wouldn't worry.

The situation scared me because I thought I would always have to watch my back. I decided to join a gang. I figured that way I would have someone watching my back for me. I was part of the gang for over a year, but all of the time that I was with them I was more afraid of the gang than anyone else. They were a rough group of people. People feared us and they respected us because they feared us. I remember fighting people for no other reason than that they were in a different gang. Being around gunfire was a daily event. In school, my grades slipped and deep down I knew this was not me. I was not one of them.

Before I left Mississippi, I promised my grandmother that I would not join a gang and that I would keep my grades up. But there I was, doing what I promised I wouldn't. I felt like I had let her down. Remembering my promise to her, I started staying away from the gang. I couldn't deal with that life.

I owe this mentality to my mother and my grandparents. They pushed what was right and wrong into me at an early age. Then my grandmother passed away. When that happened, I left the gang completely. I felt like a loner on the street, I didn't have those eyes watching my back, but I felt free.

People now respect me for being Sherrod, not a member of the group that I was with. Facing History showed me that there are people, teachers and other students, concerned about teenagers' well-being in this world of violence. Facing History asks questions and encourages answers about how we can better deal with the violence and make our lives better.

Phredd MatthewsWall, Program Associate, Facing History and Ourselves, New York, NY

Facing History and Ourselves is a national, nonprofit educational foundation. Our major objective is to try to bring curriculum materials to young people and to educators so that they can help young people discuss critical issues of decision making, of critical thinking, of how to talk about issues that are pertinent to their lives.

Our way of looking at issues of violence is to get young people talking about these things. We get them to talk about the kinds of decisions they make in their lives, and to understand that history has a significant legacy that's been left to us.

Young people have become disenfranchised, disconnected. They have been shown violence throughout the media. They have been desensitized to violence. What we're trying to do is help educators bring some humanity back into the classroom.

We provide student discussion groups that allow them to talk about issues of racism and violence within their own communities and look at case studies of individuals in history who have tried to make some change. We try to understand that change is not made easily, but that it can be done.

Damon Venable, 17, High School Peer Mediation Program, Annandale, VA

Peer mediation has changed me in a number of ways. One way is that I used to have a bad temper and now I look more toward the positive way of solving a conflict by discussing it with the person who I'm having the conflict with. I learned that just talking with the person is better and safer for both individuals involved in the conflict.

You can encourage other schools to use peer mediation by getting different ethnic groups all together with people who are experienced with mediation.

Most important is to get them to understand what mediation is and do workshops. Do role plays. Do first hand things to let them witness what mediation is about.

I've seen so many people hurt in my school, so many people shot in my school. Instead of just changing it, I want to stop it completely. Just cut it out.

CE Examiners

Q: This is for Sherrod. How do you reflect now on your decision to join a gang when you were in Chicago?

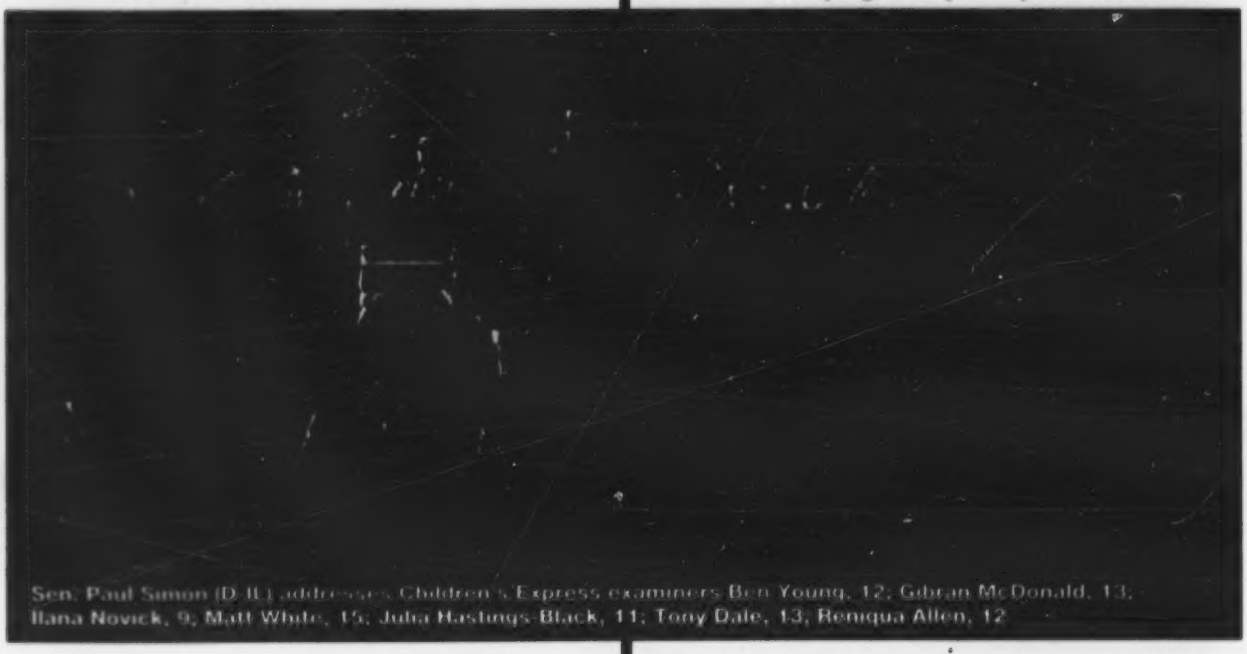
Sherrod: Looking back now, it was the coward's way out. My mom always told me, you came into this world alone and you can leave it that way. I didn't need those guys. I really didn't. And they really didn't care about me.

Q: What alternative solutions can we use instead of violence?

Sherrod: The true way is to talk it out. People don't have to resort to violence to solve different means of disagreements. That to me is very barbaric. Talk, man, that's all you have to do is just talk.

Q: Sherrod, why do you think schools should have the Facing History program?

Sherrod: Schools should have the Facing History program for the simple fact that a lot of kids start like I did, not even thinking or caring about the violence and what is going on. It's just happening and no one is trying to stop it. My class showed me that there were a lot of people interested in violence, what the kids' point of view was, and how to stop it. I think all the schools should have it.



Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) addresses Children's Express examiners Ben Young, 12; Gibran McDonald, 13; Ilana Novick, 9; Matt White, 15; Julia Hastings-Black, 11; Tony Dale, 13; Reniqua Allen, 12

SESSION II

Sarah Pearson, 11, Eldorado Terrace Tutorial Program, Fort Pierce, FL

The afternoon school tutoring program is held in our neighborhood patrol station and was started by the police department. We have about 30 kids in the class, from age five to 13. We have two computers with educational programs on them and workbooks, papers, pencils and other things to help the students do better with math, reading, and writing.

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Before the patrol station opened, our neighborhood had gang problems and violence. We had people with guns on the street, drugs being sold in the park behind our house, and some people had been shot. People were afraid to call the police and report the problems.

Since the patrol station opened, we've had a chance to get to know our officers as friends and as people who want to help. One girl said when she first came to the class she was afraid of the police. She believed that officers were bad. They were the ones who beat Rodney King. But now she knows they're not just someone in a uniform and not someone who would hurt her or her family.

We have a lot going on in our patrol station. Now we do not have gangs and other problems that were there before. And the bad boys know that if something starts, we will call the police and we know they will come and help us. They know us as friends.

R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police, Fort Pierce, FL

I want to talk about community policing. It represents a big change in the way police work is done in our communities across the country. It affects every member of the community, not just the citizens and the people who own property, the voters and tax-payers. It means children and the homeless; it means people suffering mental affliction and all the others who make up our communities.

Community policing was born about ten years ago out of a sense of frustration and a sense of anger by police chiefs who said that our police departments were not achieving their primary function. Our purpose was to prevent crime and protect people. But we weren't being successful at it. We were being very quick and efficient, but we weren't solving problems. We weren't reducing violence. We weren't lowering fear in our communities.

Community policing means that police chiefs have to be honest with citizens. They have to tell people that they can't be everywhere at once and they can't solve all of the problems. The problems that we do solve are only solved when we work together.

By developing other ways to handle police calls, like using volunteers and taking reports over the telephone, we can let officers who are fully trained spend more time in neighborhoods getting to know people. Community policing means giving police officers the time and the equipment or the resources they need to solve problems in neighborhoods. Officers can feel better about themselves because they're able to spend more time actually working with folks and actually solving problems and improving the quality of life in their communities.

Along with the tutoring program, the health department teaches AIDS prevention and a tenant association meets at the patrol station. We have scouting programs and a whole host of other programs there.

We've developed a trust and a bond betwen the officers and among everybody in that community except for the drug dealers and the criminals. They're not part of that. Community policing is a partnership that can reduce violence in a child's life.

"Community policing is a partnership that can reduce violence in a child's life. ■ Uniting the community to understand each other's problems and to help and support each other is far more important than just a massive army of police officers. ■ What we've come to realize, sadly, is that real police work is prevention. That's why we call community policing and PAL and tutoring and community service projects our real police work."

R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police, Fort Pierce, FL

Ken Papierz, Police Officer, PAL (Police Activities League) Program, Houston, TX

The youth program being implemented by Houston PAL is based on personal experiences obtained by growing up in poverty surrounded by street gangs, youth violence, racial tension, and dysfunctional families.

The officers recruit boys and girls between the ages of ten and 17 years old to participate in after school PAL activities. We've learned through experience that many crimes committed by youth occur after school because they have idle time, are bored, and fall in with kids who get into trouble.

What happens so often is these gang members are at school, they hear the kids saying, "Oh I got in a fight with my mom and dad." The gang members hear that and they say, "Hey, you know, you don't need to put up with that. You come and be with us. You'll be respected and you'll be an equal with us." And that's the attraction, they offer it as a brotherhood, as a means of drawing kids away from their families and their homes. But to be part of this family, you have to go and commit a crime, most often a violent crime.

With a PAL officer, the members are taught the values of discipline, hard work, good sportsmanship, responsibility, team work, and most importantly, good citizenship. What separates our program in Houston from other PAL programs that operate around the country is the vast array of activities, opportunities, and educational programming that we offer our members.

For instance, we offer career days with guest speakers from various occupations, we go to the opera and ballet, we work with Houston's two major universities. Each officer also tries to find summer jobs for his members by utilizing personal contacts and businesses who support PAL. We also participate in urban scouting and give our inner city kids an opportunity to go out camping in the woods.

We do community service projects. Our members learn that no matter how difficult each of their lives may be, there are people and families out there who are worse off than they are. So instead of feeling sorry for themselves or getting angry, they make the best of their situation and try to better it.

The goal of Houston PAL is to provide an opportunity to any youth, regardless of economic standing, to visit places and people and to do things that they would not ever have a chance to experience were it not for the PAL program. We would be more than glad to assist other communities, organizations and government leaders in setting up programs such as ours in other areas.

Charles Castillo, 15, PAL Program, Houston, TX

When I was nine I joined the Police Activities League. The third year I was in the PAL, my father left the household. I decided I should stay home and comfort my mother, who didn't understand the reason why my father had left. He had an alcohol problem and, I later found out, a drug addiction.

After I had missed a couple of community service projects and practices, Officer Papierz came to my home and spoke with my mother and me about my absence. My mother explained our situation to him and he understood completely. He spoke to me about a similar situation he had been in and explained to me that staying at home would only make my mother feel guilty.

During that period in which my father had left the household I thought about joining a gang. I knew a few people who were in gangs and I thought they would accept me for who I was and treat me like a brother. But I learned in the PAL program that to join the gang I would have had to hurt other people and steal their belongings.

Now life for me is peaceful. I have no troubles at home and I always have something to do after school. I'm always with Officer Papierz and I have a lot more friends. PAL has helped me become a mature, responsible young adult and will help others do the same.

CE Examiners

Q: This question is for Sarah. Why do you think so much violence is occurring in the United States?

Sarah: Probably 'cause parents won't pay attention to a lot of children now. And the children just think, well, if they're not paying attention to me, I gotta find a way so they go out in gangs and get into violence. Probably that's why.

Q: This is for Charles. What has PAL done for your community as a whole?

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)

Charles: It's brought the community closer together and it's taken the kids off the streets so they won't be able to join the gangs that are around the community. The kids come together and they clean up the community.

Q: This is for Chief Kerlikowske. How important is it to unite the community against violence?

Kerlikowske: Even with 50,000 more police officers, the police themselves can't stop the violence that is occurring in the cities and also in the suburban and rural areas. Only when police administrators say, we're all in this together and we all have to work together, are we going to be more successful. Uniting the community to understand each other's problems and to help and support each other is far more important than just a massive army of police officers.

Q: How much has your program been able to reduce violence?

Kerlikowske: Violence has gone down dramatically in the particular area where the neighborhood patrol station is. Our crime rate overall in the city of Fort Pierce is at the lowest level in ten years and we're very proud of that decrease. What we've come to realize, sadly, is that real police work is prevention. That's why we call community policing and PAL and tutoring and community service projects our real police work.

Q: This is for Chief Kerlikowske. What happens if you succeed in preventing violence, all violence. What would you do then?

Kerlikowske: I think I'd have worked myself out of a job and I can't think of a better pat on the back for law enforcement than to actually be in a position where you have more time to eat donuts.

SESSION III

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)

First let me say that I applaud what you're doing. I think this is great. Violence is not an act of God, it's a result of flawed policy. We have to change the policy in a number of ways. We have to look at the problems of poverty and joblessness in our society. We have to look at the problem of proliferation of weapons. And the one specific area where I believe you wanted me to testify is the excessive violence on our television.

We simply have to recognize that we imitate what's on television. If television for 30 seconds glorifies a bar of soap, we go out and buy a bar of soap. And if, for 25 minutes television glorifies violence, unfortunately, we go out and imitate the violence.

Last year in Chicago, 927 people were killed by firearms. A city of similar population is Toronto in Canada. Toronto last year had 17 people killed by firearms. The city of Chicago had four-and-a-half times more killings that the whole country of Canada.

"If television for thirty seconds glorifies a bar of soap, we go out and buy a bar of soap. And if, for twenty-five minutes television glorifies violence, unfortunately, we go out and imitate the violence. ■ Last year in Chicago 927 people were killed by firearms. A city of similar population is Toronto in Canada. Toronto last year had 17 people killed by firearms. The city of Chicago had four-and-a-half times more killings that the whole country of Canada."

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)

CE Examiners

Q: How can working parents monitor what their children watch on television?

Simon: It's very tough for parents to monitor. In many areas where we have the highest crime there is a high level of single parent households where frequently that single parent is just struggling to get by. To expect that parent to do much monitoring of television is very tough.

Q: What good will those TV warnings about violence be to the kids sitting at home in front of the television while their parents are at work?

Simon: Advertisers don't like to get on a program that has advisories. So what we're doing is we're hitting them in the pocketbook when they put on a violent program.

Q: Does any curriculum currently exist that teaches children how to tell the difference between fantasy, TV violence, and reality?

Simon: That's a very good and very hard question. NBC has a series of public service announcements that include some education on this. But this is an area where we do have a problem.

Q: Do you feel that on a movie or television program when a person shoots another person in self-defense it's just as bad as when another person shoots someone, like for fun?

Simon: I think it can be bad even if it's shooting in self-defense, because if the lesson is that violence is a way to solve problems, it's the wrong lesson.

Q: There's a lot of controversy around TV violence. Do you think that the problem is the shows or the ways people interpret them?

Simon: I think the problem is both. There was one movie that was on a network a few years back which showed a young man committing suicide. After that movie was shown, twenty-seven young men around the nation committed suicide in the same way. We don't need that in our society.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

MORNING PANEL

Facilitator:
Suki Cheong, 16, New York Bureau

Reporters:
Megan Burke, 13, New York Bureau
Chela Delgado, 12, Oakland Bureau
Jonathan Franks, 11, Washington Bureau
David Meadvin, 12, New York Bureau
Lisa Schubert, 13, Indianapolis Bureau
Kelley Smith, 13, Washington Bureau

SESSION I

Louis Harris, President, LH Research, Inc., New York, NY

We recently conducted two surveys for the Joyce Foundation that I want to report to you. One was among a cross section of 1,250 adults nationwide, and the other was a landmark study of attitudes, apprehensions, and involvements among young people from grades 6 to 12.

The survey among adults clearly revealed that America is deeply disturbed and alarmed about violence among young people and, most significantly, about the possession of guns and injury and death from guns. Guns are no longer primarily viewed as a source of personal protection. They have taken on a life of their own. A majority of no less than 89 to 90 percent of the American people favors passage of the Brady Bill. That's the highest we've ever recorded.

Louis Harris, President, LH Research, Inc.

But the most noteworthy result, by 52 to 43 percent for the first time, a majority of this country now favors banning all handguns except for those authorized by court order or carried by law enforcement officers. The day when handguns will be illegal for unauthorized persons to carry is close at hand. Mark that well. There's a force, a tide out there that is moving. It's sweeping the country.

Hear these facts: Fifty-nine percent of the kids say they could get a handgun if they wanted one; 36% say they could get one within an hour. We thought that they'd probably get them from the 42% of the homes that have handguns in them. Not at all. Forty-five percent say they can get a hand gun in a minute on the street; 27% at a gun store—probably an illegal sale—and 17% said outright that they knew where to steal one.

Nine percent of all the young people we surveyed say they've shot a handgun at someone else sometime. And 11% percent say they've been shot at by a handgun. When asked how they would feel if all handguns were banned for young people, 57% of these young people say, "Please do it as soon as possible." But—but, another 27% said that something would be "missing from my life without handguns being available."

Forty percent of all young people say they feel sad that they're growing up in an environment where they feel threatened by handguns. A third say they can't concentrate well on their studies because of the fear of guns and the fear of violence that is pervasive in their lives. Perhaps the most poignant result of all, fully 35% say they feel they don't think that they'll get to live to a ripe old age because they think they'll be a casualty from guns.

If anybody says this is only an inner city problem, that's nonsense. There is just as high gun use and possession of guns in the suburbs, make no mistake about that, as there is in the cities. It's pervasive. It's everywhere.

There's a huge gender gap on guns. Young boys find a macho indulgence about having them. Three times as many boys as girls fool with guns. Boys are the perpetrators, the hunters, the intimidators, while girls feel both hunted and haunted by them.

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The gun possessors and the young girls are the ones who say they don't think they're going to live very long because they're going to be victims of gun violence.

We found repeatedly that America's highly guilty over having neglected our young. Now guns as a major children's health issue and public health hazard has become a dominant issue among the American people. Mark it well. Our people are determined in the name of their children to stamp this threat out.

CE Examiners

Q: What can people do about the prevalence of guns?

Harris: I hope that people in Congress will listen to these results when the Brady Bill comes up for vote this month. Second, if parents took it upon themselves to talk to their children, I think a great deal of good could be done. Parents ought to sympathetically sit down with their kids and talk about what life is like and what things they have apprehensions about, what they're involved in. Not probing, not lecturing, but listening, sharing as a partner and a family.

Third, I'd like to have school people pay attention to this. Fifty-five percent of these kids wish there were metal detectors in their schools and only 17% said that they had conflict resolution programs in their schools. One of the sadnesses that we found in this study and others is that young people don't feel that they should turn to the schools for help. But they should. They should. We've also got to get at the root causes.

Q: How accurate is the way people perceive violence?

Harris: The fear is greater among minority kids. There's a notion abroad in the land that minority kids are all immersed in guns and violence and that they love it. The truth is a bigger majority of them want to ban handguns than do the non-minority kids. They should be encouraged to take leadership on this. And I know they want to. Get teams of young people who can take the lead with peer group pressure, peer group influences, and mentor influences among young people. Changing the culture is critical. Today there's a vacuum.

Q: Based on the results of your study, how effective do you think the Brady Bill would be?

Harris: It is not a cure-all. But, symbolically, it's enormously important. If Brady is passed, I think it will open the floodgates.

Q: How do you see the youth of 2000?

Harris: We're at a crossroads. We can go down the path that we're going down now, with more violence, more feeling of oppression, more neglect of children. Or we can do things which will liberate them, allow them to grow to their own full capability and achieve their dreams.

"By 52 to 43 percent, for the first time a majority of this country now favors banning all handguns except for those authorized by court order or carried by law enforcement officers. ■ When asked how they would feel if all handguns were banned for young people, 57% of these young people say, "Please do it as soon as possible." ■ If anybody says this is only an inner city problem, that's nonsense. There is just as high gun use and possession of guns in the suburbs, make no mistake about that, as there is in the cities. It's pervasive. It's everywhere. ■ We found repeatedly that America's highly guilty over having neglected our young. ■ If parents took it upon themselves to talk to their children, I think a great deal of good could be done."

Louis Harris, President, LH Research, Inc.

SESSION II

Shirley Fikes, 11, Safe Haven Program, Fort Worth, TX

There is a lot of violence with kids where I live. People get killed by friends 'cause of nothing. They visit your house and eat your food and so it's hard to forgive them for killing your son or brother.

My baby brother got shot up the street at the corner by my house. One of his friends was hanging with him and came to the door of the house to tell my mother that my brother got shot. Me and my mother ran up there and called the ambulance. When they were putting him in the ambulance, he moved his hand and the bullet shifted and that's how he died.

Another brother got stabbed in the park. He was playing basketball and one of his friends got mad because my brother beat him up because he was meeting with my sister. My brother broke his hand. So when he was playing basketball the boy

that he fighted came and stabbed him and he ran up to a church and that's where he died. My older brother died of AIDS. When my grandmother first told me I was trying to keep calm, but I had to let it out so I had to cry at the funeral. My sister took it pretty hard. He was her twin brother. My momma took some pictures of my brothers when they was in the caskets. She looks at them sometimes to get calm. If I could talk to my brothers, I'd tell them that I love them and I didn't want them to leave.

Anthony Jones, Director of Youth Services, Germantown Settlement, Philadelphia, PA

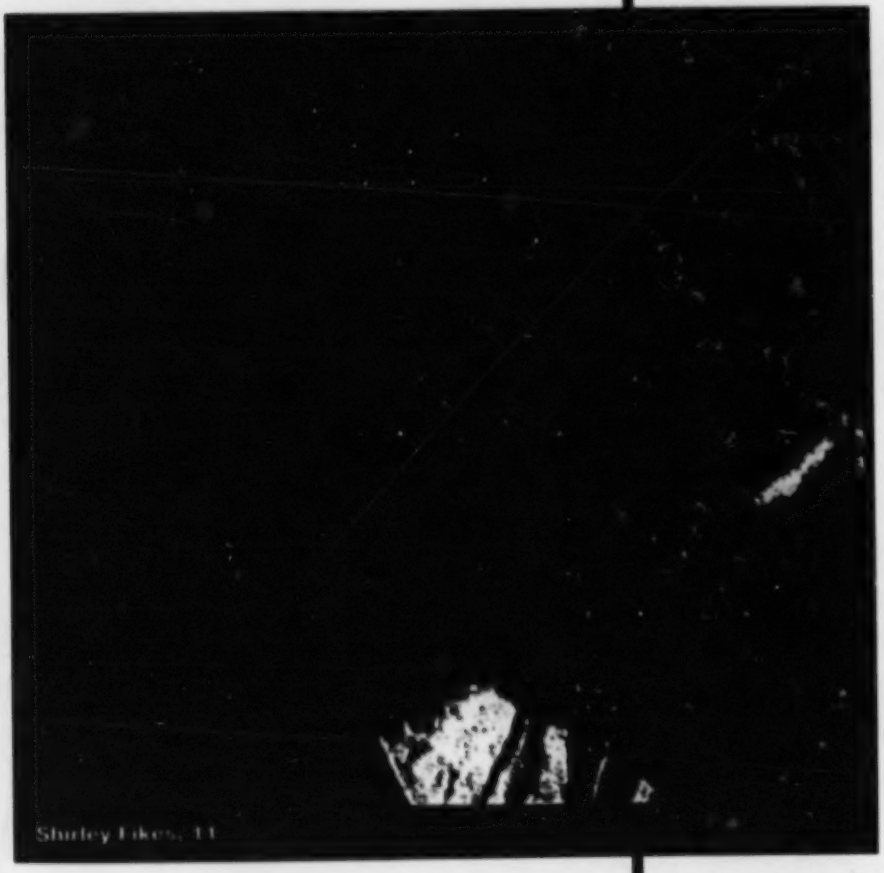
The primary purposes of the Germantown Settlement are to stimulate loyalty and pride in the community, to develop among neighbors a sense of responsibility for the neighborhood, and to develop an awareness of relationships and the ability to act constructively in the community, state, nation, and the world.

We offer two particular programs. One is family preservation services—an intensive, in-home crisis intervention family education program. We believe that no family is hopeless. The goals of the program are to prevent the unnecessary out-of-home placement of children through intensive on-site intervention, teaching families new problem-solving techniques and skills so they can prevent or handle future crises.

The other program is called Service to Children and Youth and assists parents and youth in acquiring the skills they need for effective money management, home making, and other activities of daily living.

We also provide a day treatment and monitoring program for adjudicated delinquents who are on probation, but at home.

We believe there are a lot of things that people can do. We don't necessarily need money to do them. We just have to come together.



Shirley Likens, 11

SESSION III

Frank Orlando, Retired Judge, Fort Lauderdale, FL

I'm a retired circuit judge who spent 21 years dealing with children's issues. I believe that the crime problem in the United States is being exploited by the media and that bad reporting is a contributing factor to the public's perception of what's going on.

Yes, there is an increase in the amount of violence committed by young people, but it is not the number of young people that are committing violence that is expanding, it's the age of onset.

Everything that we know about young people growing up is that they live what they learn. We are experiencing violent behavior by younger and younger children because they are more and more exposed to violence in their own lives. If they live in a violent environment, if they live in a system of deprivation, in a situation that is crime-ridden, those are the things that they'll learn and those are the things that they will do. Children are not born as criminals.

But many, many children today have no hope of being able to break out of the life cycles they are in. And those are the kinds of things that drive crime. The criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system are looked to to solve these problems but these are not the problems of the criminal justice system.

Recent child welfare data have demonstrated that the fastest growing number of people being placed

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out of their homes are infants. Infants who will never return to a home, who will never be adopted. Children between infancy and 12 years of age are becoming the largest group of homeless people.

These are the issues that are facing our society. There are strategies that can be developed to deal with these issues, but our public policy makers seem to be addressing the back end of the system by calling for building more prisons, lowering the age of delinquency, and putting more and more children who commit offenses into institutions instead of dealing with questions of social welfare and social justice.

The band-aid approaches that we've had to gun control are not the answer. What we need are approaches to social stress and the deprivation that people are experiencing more and more today because of our deteriorating economic conditions. The vast majority of young people who need to be addressed by our government and our society are infants and young children who are being deprived. That cannot be solved by the criminal justice system.

We have in our society the ability to respond very quickly. But why is it that we respond in such a punitive and punishment-oriented manner when events are committed by minority children? Our response to very similar bizarre and tragic crimes by white middle class young people do not invoke the same anger in our society.

Ira Schwartz, Dean, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

I want to appeal to Children's Express once again to call for more responsible policies toward young people who are committing offenses. Legislators and governors throughout the country are calling for more repressive and punitive policies toward young people. They're calling for policies that advocate trying more juveniles in the adult courts and sentencing more juveniles to adult prisons.

Surveys show that overwhelmingly the American public supports providing young people with the same due process protections as adults. But they do not want to have juveniles sent to adult prisons. I'm not surprised by this because there isn't anyone I know who thinks the adult prison system in this country rehabilitates anyone, let along young people.

The public is generally ahead of the politicians in most states who are advocating get-tough measures and more punitive policies toward young people.

A number of states have clearly demonstrated that the number of young people who need to be confined for reasons of public safety is relatively small. Most young people who find themselves enmeshed in the juvenile justice system and who are adjudicated can be managed in well run, well staffed community-based programs without compromising the risk to public safety.

Alternative sentencing programs work. There are services that provide intensive supervision in the home. There are day treatment services and community-based programs. The key is to identify the appropriate level of surveillance and supervision that a person needs, what their educational, behavioral, and social needs are, and then to meet them.

"Many children today have no hope of being able to break out of the life cycle they are in. And those are the kinds of things that drive crime. ■ Our public policy makers seem to be addressing the back end of the system by calling for building more prisons, lowering the age of delinquency, and putting more and more children who commit offenses into institutions instead of dealing with questions of social welfare and social justice. ■ The vast majority of young people who need to be addressed by our government and our society are infants and young children who are being deprived."

Judge Frank Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

CE Examiners

Q: What proof is there that alternative sentencing is better for children than being put in jail? I think that a case could be made that under certain circumstances a jail sentence would be beneficial for a child.

Orlando: There's very little evidence to back up your statement. Most of the evidence demonstrates that children who are put in programs that are small and intensive in treatment, that deal with the development of self-esteem, competence and responsive behavior, work far better than prisons. In Florida, we have learned that 75% of people released from prison programs return to some form of committed status within one year.

Schwartz: The evidence that we have indicates that juveniles who are sent to institutions are more

likely to commit crimes when they leave than juveniles who are in managed community programs closer to home. This is one of the reasons why it's important to try to minimize the use of incarceration.

Q: Do you believe in community service as a way of helping the children?

Orlando: For the last few years, Ira Schwartz and I have been promoting the "Balanced Approach" to youth rehabilitation. This is a three-pronged approach. First, you must become accountable for what you do. Second, we help you develop competency. If young people have some hope that they have skills to get a job and earn a decent living, they are not going to be so prone to continue to commit crimes. The third approach is restitution through communty service. That is, paying back society in a very productive way for the crime you committed.

SESSION IV

Donny Hinkle, 18, Youth As Resources, Indianapolis, IN

Whenever I lived at home I had a really hard time communicating with my mom and dad. I guess they was wanting one person and I couldn't be that person. We began to fight and argue a whole lot and so I turned to the streets to find somebody that would actually listen to me.

I tried to hide a lot of my emotions through self-mutilation. I got pretty rough in school. I ended up just stopping going to school because I was either in the chance of getting into a fight with teachers or hurting somebody, so I just ran in the streets. But everything I was wanting to do I couldn't do because I needed a home.

My eighth grade year is when I really started to get pretty violent. I didn't care who I hurt. I didn't care about anything. It was getting to a point where I would put screw drivers through my hands to just kind of hide my emotional pain. I'd get stuck to the desk because the screw drivers went into the wood too far. I shattered some of the bones in my knuckles from punching holes in a brick wall.

I was fourteen years old and out in the world by myself. I felt that mom and dad had thrown me out of the home. So I turned to the gangs as a kind of security blanket to make me feel invincible, like I was a little bit more than everybody else.

One day, after I got arrested for fighting my father in the street, they put me in a group home and it was the first time I really could talk to somebody and they would listen. It was the first time that I could give an opinion and somebody would actually listen to my opinion. It was the first time I could come to somebody with a problem and they would actually try to help me solve the problem instead of telling me where I went wrong or how stupid I was.

While I was in the group home I learned how to communicate, instead of holding everything in to a point where I had to hurt myself or break my knuckles against walls. I learned how to talk to people and every time I talked, I would grow as a person. I would find out who Donny is. I also found the Youth As Resources program that gave me a chance to learn how to give to the community instead of always taking.

Youth As Resources is totally for youth. They ask if there's something in your community that you would like to see look nicer, or some way you can help, and they have grants to help you buy materials to make the project go well. In my neighborhood there was this park, kind of like a ghost park with mud and rusted bars and no children. I said, "Let's paint the park," and we did. We had adults coming from all over the community and children coming out playing on the first day that the park could be played on. From that I gained a lot of leadership and felt good about myself 'cause I had helped to give to the community.

> **"If the community would give youth a chance to grow, give youth a chance to be positive, perhaps the violence would be lowered. ■ Children should not be the ones to be judged. I think mom and dad, the next door neighbor, the guy down at the store, wherever, whoever, everybody needs to try to help out the youth because you have to admit it, we're your future."**
>
> Donny Hinkle, 18, Youth As Resources, Indianapolis, IN

If I could single out one thing that causes violence in America, I think it would be stereotyping youth. When I lived in my community, every time I walked out my front door I was not Donny, I wasn't a teenager looking to see what career I could do, I was a head banger, a rock 'n roller, a druggie. If the community would give youth a chance to grow, give youth a chance to be positive, perhaps the violence would be lowered.

I came here today to try to help out whoever I can 'cause the one quality I've learned and I'll never stop learning is how to give to people.

John Calhoun, Executive Director, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC

It's not just the deaths that we need to be concerned about, it's the loss of outrage.

Why the violence? There are several reasons. One is the collapse of families and anonymous neighborhoods. Trouble stems from disconnection from those normalizing institutions like schools, families, community and job. Disconnection not only breeds crime and violence, it also can breed a sense that we're not responsible for others.

More and more families are raising kids alone. This is wrong. Kids have less and less contact with adults. So the communicators of values more and more are the peer group and television.

High school dropouts and single teen parents are neither good role models nor good parents of kids. They tend to be poor and struggle more.

Children aren't safe. A teen in Oakland told me, "I can get a gun right down the block, but I have to take a bus to get school supplies."

Child abuse continues to rise. And violence done to children early, we know, is paid back later.

Almost all of our policies relating to youth are based on pathology. They're based on trouble. Why don't we go beyond that and say, "What are you good at? What do you like to do? You are a terrific kid and society needs you!" We very rarely look at youth as positive resources for the community.

We need to help kids, but we also have got to claim kids and say, "We need you, you're part of us." Teens ache to belong and to give. There exists a vast reservoir of idealism, but we tend not to tap it. We don't even look for it very often.

We have fled in terror from the combative field of values. We've ceded important words like "responsibility" and "duty" and "obligation" to the new right. I think because we have not asked more of kids, those with whom we work, we risk stripping them of their dignity, implying that they're not capable. And often we earn their resentment.

There is income disparity. The rich grow richer and the poor grow poorer and this breeds tension and despair.

"It's not just the deaths that we need to be concerned about, it's the loss of outrage. ■ We've got to strengthen the natural mechanisms that make a community work. Families. Schools. ■ Communities with high rates of adult involvement with youth, who listen to youth, have less trouble. ■ Give youth the opportunity to serve. We have seen youth do extraordinary things for their communities. ■ But the most important single challenge before America in the '90s is to build a sense of community that transcends individualism to serve us. We need to transform the American perspective from me to we."

John Calhoun, Director, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC

So what do we need? Let's look first to an unusual source for guidance: the gang recruiter. What does he provide? Family, community, status, recognition, an outlet for energy, money, adventure. He does not provide a safe environment, varied role models, a sensible outlet for energy, a wider world beyond neighborhood turf, a context in which to serve the neighborhood positively, and hope for the future.

So what should we do? We've got to strengthen the natural mechanisms that make a community work. Families. Schools. Expanding programs such as Healthy Start in Hawaii. Hold parents responsible for their children's behavior as much as possible.

I'd require parenting education in school. Institute conflict resolution. Spread programs such as Beacon Schools, which open early and close late, providing places for kids to go. Communities with high rates of adult involvement with youth, who listen to youth, have less trouble.

Give youth the opportunity to serve. We have seen youth do extraordinary things for their communities. Donny was in Youth As Resources and what he and his group did was terrific. The results are stunning: increases in competence, confidence, self-esteem, work gets done and kids usually make educational gains as well.

Our social policy, our vocabulary is impoverished. We've tended to make everyone a victim. Now there are a lot of victims out there. There's a lot of hurt. There's a lot of pain.

Very often we don't communicate to youth, we don't say, "We need you, you've got a skill that somebody needs." So let's add a new verb to our youth policy lexicon and start *claiming* kids in addition to helping them.

Let's also make kids safe. Pass the Brady Bill. Get rid of assault weapons. Forbid possession of handguns by minors.

And if the media, which is awash in violent programming, can't regulate its own behavior, then the public should and must.

And there's much much more. Job training and

re-training, reduction of youth involvement with drugs and alcohol, and so on.

But the most important single challenge before America in the '90s is to build a sense of community that transcends individualism to serve us. We need to transform the American perspective from me to we.

Dr. Christine E. Pawelski, Professor, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY

There are approximately eight million children in this country who have some kind of disability. And though I am happy to report that the world for children and youth with disabilities is much better today than it was 20 years ago, kids with disabilities are still subject to violence and abuse.

Donny Hinkle, 18; John Calhoun, National Crime Prevention Council

Children with disabilities are abused 1.7 times more often than their non-disabled peers.

We need to learn to respect individual differences. We need to learn what a person is on the inside, not just on the outside, and give each person their personal dignity and respect.

CE Examiners

Q: This is a question for Mr. Calhoun. You mentioned in your testimony about how parents really need to get involved with their children and that they have to take responsibility for their child's actions. Do you think that kids who commit crimes should have their parents take the blame for it?

Calhoun: I think it's more a sharing of the responsibility. If an under-age child is involved in trouble, the system should not just focus on the youth. It should also try and create a sense of responsibility among parents. But our policies tend to focus just on youth. I think we have to bring the parents in on the equation.

Hinkle: If mom and dad could have been more supportive, could have been more understanding, could have been there, or if maybe they had had a parenting class, it could have helped me not get into gangs. Maybe it could have saved a couple of my group home walls. Maybe it could have helped me get through my education a little bit quicker than others. Children is not the overall problem. Children should not be the ones to be judged. I think mom and dad, the next door neighbor, the guy down at the store, wherever, whoever, everybody needs to try to help out the youth because you have to admit it, we're the future.

Q: This question is for Donny. What do you see in your future and how are you going to raise your daughter differently from how you were raised?

Hinkle: I don't want to necessarily have to stand over her with a golden rod or anything like that. What I want to do is stand beside her and walk through life with her. And I have started at this early age. Samantha and I go to the park together. We color together. We even play babies together because that's one of her hobbies. I'm there for her. I'm there beside her, and I want her to keep that in her heart at all times. She knows she has one person there for her. With that environment in mind, I think she'll go all the way. Regarding my future, I'm a little too young to judge the next 70, 80 years of my life. At this point, I would like to devote most of my life to helping others.

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27

AFTERNOON PANEL

Facilitator:
Malik Thompson, 16, Oakland Bureau

Reporters:
Cindy Dyar, 13, Indianapolis Bureau
Jacki Fisher, 12, Washington Bureau
Sam Mende-Wong, 10, Oakland Bureau
Oliver Nicholas, 10, Washington Bureau
Megan White, 14, Indianapolis Bureau
Sasha Whyte, 13, New York Bureau

SESSION I

Dr. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, Member, American Academy of Pediatrics, Chicago, IL

I am a pediatrician, which puts me in touch with the lives of children and families. Like other doctors, pediatricians treat illnesses and injuries. But like parents, we prefer to keep our patients healthy by preventing these. Over the years, we have done this in many ways, including immunizations to prevent infections, and injury prevention campaigns promoting the use of car seats, seat belts, and bike helmets.

I entered pediatrics because I like the fact that the work of a pediatrician can help a child for a lifetime. I also studied epidemiology, the science that concerns disease in populations, and got a degree in public health. As a pediatric epidemiologist, my greater concerns are the leading causes of death and disability in childhood, which are injuries. I have worked on a number of different types of injuries, including child abuse, homicide, and car crashes. Some years ago, a team of hospital staff discussed an 18-month-old patient with a BB in his brain. This has led to years of work on firearm injuries of various types.

My work on firearms is fed by roots in my clinical work. Almost 20 years ago, I had a well child visit that I will never forget with a boy named Damian. I asked him what he wanted for Christmas, and he said he wanted a trumpet to wake up his daddy, whom he'd seen shot to death. About five years ago, I was working in the emergency room one Sunday, when we got a call that a 15-year-old boy was being brought in by ambulance after a shooting. He arrived awake but pulseless, with a bullet wound in his abdomen. He was in the operating room within 15 minutes of the shooting, which is the only reason he survived. Nowadays, my clinical work is mainly in nutrition, but the family histories I take are riddled with men, and occasional women, who have died of gunshot wounds. I feel I need to do something to stop all this.

The situation is grim. For U.S. teens, firearm death now outnumbers all natural causes deaths. The natural causes include cancer and heart disease and influenza and kidney disease and AIDS, and many others, and the firearm deaths are more common than all of these together. The U.S. is the only country in the world with this level of firearm death. The U.S. homicide rate for boys and young men is more than four times the next highest rate, close to ten times the rate in Sweden, and close to 100 times the rate in Austria. Most of the U.S. homicides are due to firearms. Ask most people, and they will tell you that the biggest epidemic they can remember is polio. Well, in terms of the deaths, the firearm epidemic is at least ten times as big as the polio epidemic.

> **"The situation is grim. For U.S. teens, firearm deaths now outnumber all natural causes of death. The U.S. is the only country in the world with this level of firearm death."**
>
> Dr. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, American Academy of Pediatrics, Chicago, IL

The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that to stop this epidemic, we must get handguns out of the environments of children. We think that it will be best if civilian ownership of handguns is banned. We are working with many others to educate families about the health dangers of handguns, and to help families and communities choose safer means of self-protection. Our message is that it is possible to protect children or guns, but not both.

Sherman Spears, 23, Youth Alive!/ Teens on Target, Oakland, CA

Today we live in a society where violence has come to be tolerated and looked upon as a way of life. From the beginning, our nation has looked on violence as a way to solve problems. Now it is running into the daily lives of kids.

Today kids go to school with the knowledge that when they walk out of their house they could be shot by a drive-by or a stray bullet at any time. And because of this, kids come to look at their lives as futile, almost non-existent. They say, I don't know if I'm gonna live today so I'll do whatever I have to do to survive. They develop a superman mentality, they're willing to kill, to build up a reputation that they're not a person someone wants to fool with, and they think they'll be protected by that.

I'm here to let kids know that the superman mentality doesn't work. The reputation that you build up to protect yourself can also be the reputation that gets you killed. At the age of 18 I was a victim of a violent shooting that left me paralyzed.

Now, I'm trying to start a program that will send kids into hospitals with a positive message for other kids who've been victims of violence, to let them know that they could use this incident as a way of turning their life around and get back on the right track. Hopefully, we'll be able to get there before their friends come and put the idea into their heads that retribution is the only way for them to get respect out of what happened to them.

Youth Alive! is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing violence by documenting the effects of violence at the state and local level. It educates policy makers as to the effects of violence on children's lives.

Teens On Target is a program that trains urban youth who are at risk of dying and are at risk of violence to be advocates for preventing violence.

I really wish that kids were given more opportunity to be involved in the solution for violence because they are the ones that are most at risk and they genuinely know what needs to be done to reduce the violence that affects their lives.

I also wish that we had stronger community relations between kids and adults so that kids would know that they were valued. They have a right to demand respect from adults, just as adults demand respect from them.

"I'm here to let kids know that the superman mentality doesn't work. The reputation that you build up to protect yourself can also be the reputation that gets you killed. At the age of 18 I was a victim of a violent shooting that left me paralyzed. ■ I really wish that kids were given more opportunity to be involved in the solution for violence because they are the ones that are most at risk and they genuinely know what needs to be done to reduce the violence that affects their lives. ■ I also wish that we had stronger community relations between kids and adults so that kids would know that they were valued. They have a right to demand respect from adults, just as adults demand respect from them."

Sherman Spears, 23, Youth Alive!/ Teens on Target, Oakland, CA

SESSION II

Frances Davis, Brooklyn, NY

In the past six years, I've lost all my sons to violence. My first son, Raleak, was killed in June of 1987. Someone tried to rob him. He resisted. He was shot and murdered.

Less than four years later, my middle son Andrew got into a dispute with some people on the street. He thought that the argument was over. When he returned back outside two young people were waiting for him and they shot him four times. He died 12 days later from heart failure at 22 years of age. He had no history of any illness.

My last son, Frankie, was killed this past July as he left my mother's building in Brooklyn, New York. He was caught in a cross fire. He was shot once and killed instantly. He never made it to the emergency room.

All of these things that happened to my children are because of handguns. Homicide is the leading cause of death for New Yorkers between the age of 15 and 24 and guns account for more than 80% of these deaths. A soldier sent to Vietnam was less likely to die a violent death than a minority male living in an American city today.

I'm very concerned when I read these statistics. I'm no longer a mother. All of my children are gone. But I have two nephews who live with me and I have other nephews.

All of my children were killed before they were 24 years old. I'm very angry, I'm very upset, and, of course, I'm very hurt about what happened. But instead of sitting home and grieving, I choose to come out and let the world know my story. I deal with my anger by putting it to positive use.

I started a program in Brooklyn for families of victims of violence. We're trying to think of solutions and things to do to put an end to violence. We're going to have a Stop the Violence week where we're going out in the community to speak to the young people and let them see our pain and try to get through to them. Hopefully, we can reach some youths and let them know that when they pull the trigger on a gun, the bullet goes somewhere. They not only kill or maim the person they're aiming at, sometimes they hit people they're

not aiming at at all. They're killing whole families, whole communities, a whole generation of young people.

Chris Mason, Director of DC Operations, Funds for the Community's Future, Washington, DC

Our job is to get as many people involved as we can with the education of local students in each of the 17 neighborhoods we're working in in this city. We work in the high schools, we get the parents involved, we get local businesses involved, and we get the kids involved.

We're able to bring everyone together to help raise scholarship funds, get kids excited about college, and show them the different options that are out there. I think we've opened up a lot of eyes about the different opportunities, instead of dealing with drugs and violence, that are out there.

Frances Davis

Ronald Lott, 18, Funds for the Community's Future

I plan to attend college next year and major in education so I can give back to my community by working at one of the schools I attended.

Having had to walk past blood-stained sidewalks and police-taped poles all my life, I have told myself never to get involved with drugs or violence.

I was very lucky to stay away from violence, but unfortunately I wasn't lucky enough to stay away from drugs. In September of 1992 I was arrested on a distribution of cocaine charge. If not for a strong and encouraging mother telling me to get back on the right track and stay there, I might have been a victim of a violent death.

Drugs is one of the main causes of violent deaths in Washington, DC, especially for children. The reason for this is that people growing up don't know about all of the opportunities that are outside of drugs and violence.

Funds for the Community's Future exposed me to positive things. For example, I planned and made a community clean up day which cleaned up trash in my neighborhood.

Henry Culbreth, 16, Funds for the Community's Future

We as youth have to walk bloodthirsty streets just to get a proper education. Our high schools are turning out more dropouts than graduates.

As I go to the basketball courts, sometimes I talk to the drug dealers on my block and I try to testify to them that I'm a college student and that the same can happen to them. They can have the same opportunities that are happening for me. But their reply is negative. They tell me, you ain't gonna make it, you can't make it, you ain't got no money.

I want them to know that academics is the way. Education is the way. And we need to try to help these people who don't think they have a chance. We need to succeed as a people, not just as individuals.

SESSION III

Philip Adams, Executive Director, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL

Fifteen years ago I needed a job. I was a charter boat captain, I was starving to death, and I was in love and wanted to get married. The opportunity came to work with juvenile delinquents in a program where they learned about the ocean. One of the very first boys they ever let me work with broke my heart. And it changed my life. I saw the need for people to get involved with these young men, to be role models for them, and help them.

For almost all the boys at Last Chance Ranch, there's something wrong at home. There's not enough discipline or there's not a balance of discipline and love in the home. They're just allowed to raise themselves. And that leads to going out on the streets and being told what to do by other young men who have a lack of focus and a lack of goals.

All of these problems start in the home, in the family. The parents of these young men and women are in trouble and need to take responsibility. We as adults have to take responsibility and make a difference in their lives.

The first three days at the ranch are spent in the woods, one-on-one with one of my best staff. It's called orientation camp, it's very austere, and you

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basically learn the rules of the program. You learn what's expected. We try to eliminate the street nonsense that a lot of these guys come to the program with before they ever come on the regular compound.

They spend the first six months in what we call Phase I. In order to move from Phase I to Phase II, you have to have changed. There has to have been a genuine effort on your part to make a difference in your life.

When you get to Phase II you do another six months. Finally, you've got some air conditioning and some carpeting in the place where you live and you get to watch a little TV every once in a while and do some normal things. In the final six months we send the guys back to their homes and watch them daily to make sure they're at school or on the job. They've got to be on time, they can't make failing grades.

We try as much as we can to get the parents involved and to get them excited. Sometimes that works but a lot of times it doesn't. A lot of times the parents have so many problems themselves. They're addicted to drugs or alcohol or without work. They're struggling themselves to stay alive. And a lot of parents are angry. They don't want to be involved. They've given up.

The program is a real no-nonsense type program. And each individual young man is different. Each needs different things. We work with them and love them as much as we can and try to get them through the hard times and over those tough hurdles.

The foremost thing I hope they learn is to respect each other as human beings. We have to learn that in this country. We have to learn that what each of us does affects each and every other person in our country and in the world we live in. We need not to hurt each other and not to steal from each other or do things that make all of our lives worse. We need to learn discipline and self-respect.

"The foremost thing I hope they learn is to respect each other as human beings. We have to learn that in this country. We have to learn that what each of us does affects each and every other person in our country and in the world we live in."

Philip Adams, Executive Director, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL

Dennis Stovall, 16, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL

I think I was 11 when I made my first offense. I never hung around my brothers, my sister. I always hung around the troublesome kids that didn't have nowhere to go and nothing to do, and that just pulled me right into crime.

I've had assault charges. I've hit somebody with a car, and I beat up principals and stuff at school, but mainly stealing cars and breaking house—doing everything that somebody didn't care we do. I've stabbed somebody. I was never caught for it.

I was in Virginia, in an institute near Richmond. I'd been causing a lot of problems, and thay wanted to know if I could make it. They didn't have a program for me that I wanted to stay in. Places I was in Virginia, it was all lock-down, handcuffs and barb-wired fences. You do something wrong, they come in—12, 13 staff—they throw you on the ground, and they handcuff you and put you in a cell for four or five days. I kept running away from programs. They interviewed me for the Last Chance Ranch, and here I am.

They have discipline, too, but it's digging stumps, you know. They put you out in the field where we're cleaning a pasture. So we have to dig out stumps that we cut down. Instead of yelling at you and putting you in a handcuff, they set you down and talk to you. They teach you love. It's like a new family for me.

I think very highly of the Last Chance Ranch. It's helped me in a great deal. It's helped me family-wise. Even my mother, we didn't have a very good relationship before, and now we're back together, having great conversations on the phone.

I've been away for three years. Nobody really going to know me anymore when I get out. I know my family's going to know me, but I'm not going to have any friends. I'm going to have to make new friends, and the right friends. I'm going to try to move to a different area. I'm going to try to live on my own, have my own stable job and still communicate with my mom and anybody. Try to be a success.

I plan on getting a job working with young children, so I can tell them that crime is wrong, you know. I know that if everything goes well with me and I turn myself around, I may help a lot of kids in the future. That would make me feel real good about myself, that I could change a lot of futures for the better.

Crime is a one-way street, and it's very hard to get turned around.

You know how you go down a road and you want to do a U-turn and you're not allowed? That's about how it is with crime. You know, it don't give you a chance to do a U-turn. It tries to pull you towards going down the road, but you got to force yourself to do a U-turn and stay out of trouble.

Aaron Hunter, 18, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL

This is the first time I've ever been incarcerated. I done a lot of things, but I never really got caught for them. I don't believe in bad influence, because I believe if you do something, you did it on your own. I ain't never let nobody talk me into doing something. If I did so, I did it because I wanted to do it.

I've been through burglary, manslaughter, robbery, battery. I've been stabbed several times. I've been through a whole lot in my lifetime. I feel like I'm a very lucky person sitting around here talking to you today.

The Last Chance Ranch was introduced to me by my HRS coordinator. They was saying either get your life straight or go to prison where you won't never get your life straight. So I took the opportunity of going to the program to get my life straight.

What inspired me to turn my life around was that I got a real love at home and they care a lot about me. I got a little 15-month-old son. The opportunity that was given to me changed my life around. I don't want to end up in prison. It ain't no place to be.

I plan on being a strong leader in the black community, like my father. My role model is my father. He the only person in the world who I'd like to be like.

"We believe strongly that violence is a public health problem because we believe that violence is preventable for the most part. You can measure it, you can identify risk factors for it, you can implement programs to reduce it, and you can measure the outcome of these programs. ■ Violence and injuries represent the leading cause of years of life lost because the people who tend to die from violence and injury are younger people."

Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

SESSION IV

Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

The mission of CDC is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. We believe strongly that violence is a public health problem because we believe that violence is preventable for the most part. You can measure it, you can identify risk factors for it, you can implement programs to reduce it, and you can measure the outcome of these programs.

Violence and injuries represent the leading cause of years of life lost because the people who tend to die from violence and injury are younger people.

We have identified several things that we consider to be risk factors for violence. These are drug abuse, firearms, and environments of unemployment, poverty, and hopelessness. Environments of anger and fear also tend to be associated with violence and homicide.

We've learned that if we can improve the attitudes of young people toward the future, then we can impact upon teenage pregnancy. We can impact on substance abuse and we can improve their performance in school. Whatever we do as a nation, the bottom line is to build environments with more hope.

We have to get control of guns. We have to get guns out of the hands of teenagers. A recent study by the CDC showed that when a family buys a gun to "protect themselves," the risk is 40 times more likely that the gun will be used in a way that was not planned, a spouse killing a spouse, a child accidentally shooting themselves or someone else, or somebody committing suicide. It doesn't make sense to arm ourselves in an attempt to protect ourselves. What we've got to do is improve our communities.

The Centers for Disease Control is committed to an aggressive program to deal with violence in this country.

CE Examiners

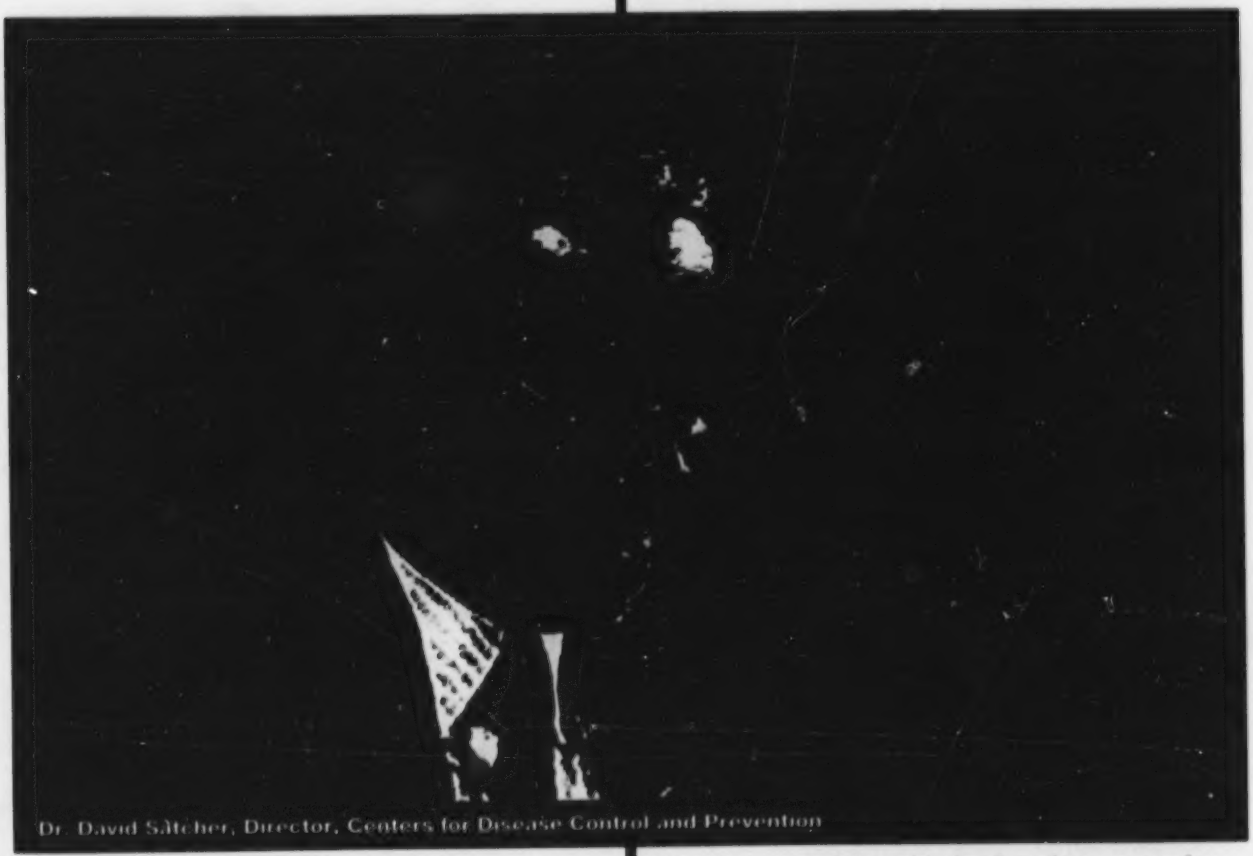
Q: We have conflict resolution classes in my school and they come and say, attack the problem and not the person and different things like that, but everyone seems to think it's very corny and no one hardly ever listens to it. What do you think schools can do to make kids understand that it really is important and you should listen to it?

Satcher: You point out a major problem that we face in health in general in this country. A lot of things that are good for you are not necessarily exciting. One of the problems of violence, of course, is that we have glamorized it. It's more glamorous than conflict resolution. We have to change that. We have to find a way to glamorize conflict resolution. And we have to start, I think, by providing incentives and rewards. We've got to start by making heroes out of people who are successful in getting people to resolve conflicts without violence.

Q: How can we help the parents?

Satcher: One of the most important things that we have to do in this country is to help the parents. We have to strengthen the family as a unit. To the extent that we can improve the environments, we will be helping parents. I think we ought to provide opportunities for parents to network around issues like violence and drugs. They need support, too. When you help the parents, you help the children.

Q: Why do you think our government is not allocating more funds toward the prevention of violence?



Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Satcher: That's a good question and a difficult one to answer. People need to speak up more about our concerns about violence. Congress listens when people in communities say that we've had enough, we want more to be done.

Q: As president of CDC, what do you plan to do to help stop rising violence and crime?

Satcher: We are going to work on several things. We're going to do a lot of listening. We're going to work on substance abuse because that's the major risk factor for violence and crime in general. We're going to work on the whole issue of the availability of firearms and the risk that they pose for children and families.

We're going to look at environments. How can you improve housing so that the density of populations can be changed? How can we create more jobs?

We're also looking for examples of successful programs that we can fund or that we can just help to support in other communities.

I think when we take away some of the glamour associated with violence, we're going to see the same kind of outcome that we've seen with cigarette smoking. We've got to deglamorize violence and I think we can. The more discussion we have about this, the more of these kinds of conferences we have, the more we're going to take away the glamour associated with violence.

Q: In three words, please describe this generation of children.

Satcher: In danger, but still promising, and very hopeful. Danger, promising, hopeful.

Q: Why did you choose these words?

Satcher: Because children are living in environments that you would have to call endangering environments. They are in danger. Yet, I get a lot of hope and promise when I work with children. I think there's always a possibility for growth. As I sit here and look up at you and listen to your tough questions, I see a lot of promise and a lot of hope.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HEARINGS

The Nature of Violence in America Today 44

- Violence does not exist alone
- We live in a pressure cooker environment which puts people under tremendous stress that leads to violence
- Violence is a not something people are born with—it's modeling others' behavior
- TV violence is a factor, but not the primary cause of violence
- No one wants violence to continue

Approaches to the Treatment of Violence 45

- Violence needs to be treated like a deadly disease
- We need to focus on prevention rather than reacting after people are hurt; to create safe, nurturing environments for kids
- We need to address the whole family and the many complex issues families face
- Adults need to listen to kids; to give them individual attention and positive messages

Action Needed 46

- Handguns and assault weapons MUST GO!
- Government can't do it all—the private sector and communities must come together in a social movement
- Children must speak up—to someone when they've been abused—and <u>out</u> to the world
- It will take both children and adults working together to solve the violence problem
- We need to make children a priority (again) and make a national commitment to that priority

THE NATURE OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA TODAY

Violence does not exist alone

"Violence is not an act of God, it's a result of flawed policy. We have to look at the problems of poverty and joblessness...of proliferation of weapons, and of the excessive violence on television."

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)

"The problem of violence does not exist alone. Other factors are poverty, alcoholism, family dysfunction, suicide, teenage pregnancy, and dropping out of school...children live in fear and have no protection from abuse of all kinds. They do not learn that there is a safe place in the world."

Phyllis Old Dog Cross, Black Hawk, SD

"Violence is a complicated issue. There is no one cause of violence in America. Chronic hostility and unresolved anger are at the root of much of the violence experienced today. We need to teach children and parents how to manage their anger."

Suzanne Stutman, Executive Director, Channeling Parents' Anger Program, Institute for Mental Health Initiatives, Washington, DC

We live in a pressure cooker environment which puts people under tremendous stress that leads to violence

"We live in a society that demands more and more of us every year. The amount of pressure that's on parents today is much more than it was ten or 20 years ago. We have a kind of pressure cooker society that puts people out there on the edge."

James Bonczek, Social Worker, New York, NY

"For almost all the boys at Last Chance Ranch, there's something wrong at home. There's not enough discipline or there's not a balance of discipline and love in the home. They're just allowed to raise themselves. The parents of these young men and women are in trouble and need to take responsibility. We as adults have to take responsibility and make a difference in their lives."

Philip Adams, Executive Director, Last Chance Ranch, Venus, FL

Violence is not something people are born with—it's modeling others' behavior

"Everything that we know about young people growing up is that they live what they learn...if they live in a violent environment, if they live in a system of deprivation, in a situation that is crime ridden, those are the things that they'll learn and those are the things that they will do. Children are not born as criminals."

Frank Orlando, Retired Judge Fort Lauderdale, FL

"What we find is that normally there is a cycle of crime that continues through the family."

Gary Behler, Director of Program Services, Bethel Bible Village, Hixon, TN

"I had always thought before I came to Bethel that once you are born this way, this is how you have to be, you can't change anything. But you can change and I know now I don't have to be like my parents."

Juanita Ansell, 16, Bethel Bible Village, Hixon, TX

"City Lights is a program for children at risk, for children who are in trouble. We try to model non-violent behavior. We try to prevent fights. We try to prevent violence by using all types of strategies. We empower the students to negotiate."

Ron Pettiway, Staff Supervisor, City Lights School, Washington, DC

TV violence is a factor, but not the primary cause of violence in America

"It's important that the television industry get with it and follow through on its promises to do something about gratuitous violence on television...but we also have got to teach all people, beginning in our elementary schools, how to resolve conflicts without using knives and fists and guns."

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

"We simply have to recognize that we imitate what's on television. If television for 30 seconds glorifies a bar of soap, we go out and buy a bar of soap. And if, for 25 minutes television glorifies violence, unfortunately, we go out and imitate the violence."

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)

"It isn't just making violence on television less, it's about portraying violence as it really is, what causes it, what's behind it."

Dr. George Zitnay, President, National Head Injury Foundation, Washington, DC

No one wants violence to continue

"The cost of caring for victims of family violence has been reported to be as much as five to ten billion dollars a year."

Leah Harrison, Assistant Director, Child Protection Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY

"I've seen so many people hurt in my school, so many people shot in my school. Instead of just changing it, I want to stop it completely. Just cut it out. The true way is to talk it out. People don't have to resort to violence to solve different means of disagreements. That to me is very barbaric."

Sherrod Harris, 18, Facing History and Ourselves Program, Chicago, IL

APPROACHES TO THE TREATMENT OF VIOLENCE

Violence needs to be treated like a deadly disease

"Child abuse is an epidemic and now recognized as a national emergency. Violence toward children kills in extraordinary numbers and damages other children beyond repair."

Leah Harrison, Assistant Director, Child Protection Center, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY

"Violence is a public health problem. Violence and injuries represent the leading cause of years of life lost because the people who tend to die from violence and injury are younger people."

Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

We need to focus on prevention rather than reacting after people are hurt; to create safe, nurturing environments for kids

"Whatever we do as a nation, the bottom line is to build environments with more hope."

Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

"It is time to address violence the way we treat other public health threats, such as smoking and drunk driving, by focusing on prevention."

Suzanne Stutman, Executive Director, Channeling Parents' Anger Program, Institute for Mental Health Initiatives, Washington, DC

"Our public policy makers seem to be addressing the back end of the system by calling for building more prisons, lowering the age of delinquency, and putting more and more children who commit offenses into institutions instead of dealing with questions of social welfare and social justice."

Frank Orlando, Retired Judge Fort Lauderdale, FL

"What we've come to realize, sadly, is that real police work is prevention. That's why we call community policing and PAL and tutoring and community service projects our real police work."

R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police, Fort Pierce, FL

"Children should not be the ones to be judged. I think mom and dad, the next door neighbor, the guy down at the store, wherever, whoever, everybody needs to try to help out the youth because you have to admit it, we're the future."

Donny Hinkle, 18, Youth As Resources, Indianapolis, IN

We need to address the whole family and the many complex issues families face

"We must do everything possible to make sure that parents are old enough, wise enough, and financially able to take care of their children. Parenting skills should be covered in schools. We've also got to free parents' time to be with their children. If employers throughout America can figure out how they can free both parents' time to be with their children in quality time, we can make this a more productive nation."

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

"My philosophy is that you take people where they are and try to provide some kind of services that will enhance their functioning. You don't make a value judgment and say, 'You're a bad parent.' We need to stop punishing people for having problems."

James Bonczek, Social Worker, New York, NY

"Generally, the reason that adults abuse their children or their spouses is because they were abused and their parents before them. Somewhere the cycle needs to be broken."

David Meadvin, 12, Children's Express Reporter, New York Bureau

"A new focus of prevention should be the reduction of multiple vulnerabilities that put families at risk for domestic violence. How do you deal with stress? What happens if you're in a family and nobody can read? Literacy has to be stressed and we need to teach parenting to young people."

Dr. George Zitnay, President,
National Head Injury Foundation,
Washington, DC

"Many children today have no hope of being able to break out of the life cycles they are in. And those are the kinds of things that drive crime. The criminal justice system [is] looked to to solve these problems but these are not the problems of the criminal justice system."

Frank Orlando, Retired Judge
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

"When we talk about family, we need to be able to break down the barriers of that traditional concept of what family is and reach out to all those people who may be involved in a child's life."

Robin Keys, Case Manager,
City Lights School, Washington, DC

Adults need to listen to kids; to give them individual attention and positive messages

"If parents took it upon themselves to talk to their children, I think a great deal of good could be done. Parents ought to sympathetically sit down with their kids and talk about what life is like and what things they have apprehensions about, what they're involved in. Not probing, not lecturing, but listening, sharing as a partner and a family."

Louis Harris, President,
LH Research, Inc., New York, NY

"Even when a child has done some very violent things, we look at that child for who they are when they come through our door and we see that this is a person who has been abused, who's been neglected or abandoned. Then we can kind of take that kid apart and look at him and say, OK, there's something to salvage here. You have to have a relationship with each kid. You have to go where they are."

Robin Keys, Case Manager,
City Lights School, Washington, DC

"When I ask children who have been in trouble what could have prevented their getting into trouble, they tell me two things: first, if there was something for them to do in the afternoons and evenings when nobody was paying attention to them, it would have made a tremendous difference. Second, and almost more important, they desperately wanted somebody they could talk to. Somebody who didn't put them down, who didn't hassle them, who listened to them and understood. Somebody who treated them firmly but fairly."

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

"Having a mom and dad who love you even if you're dirt poor is a lot more important than having a mom and dad who have lots of money and don't care. One person spending a little bit of time can change a life."

Deborah Derby, 18, Socorro, NM

ACTION NEEDED

Handguns and assault weapons MUST GO!

"By 52 to 43 percent, for the first time, a majority of this country now favors banning all handguns except for those authorized by court order or carried by law enforcement officers. There's a force, a tide out there that is moving. It's sweeping the country."

Louis Harris, President,
LH Research, Inc., New York, NY

"The statistics are grim. There are now more firearm dealers than gas stations in this country. For U.S. teens, firearm deaths now outnumber all natural causes of deaths. The U.S. is the only country in the world with this level of firearm deaths."

Dr. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel,
American Academy of Pediatrics,
Chicago, IL

"We must get guns out of the hands of our youth and increase their level of skills so that they can manage conflict constructively."

Suzanne Stutman, Executive Director,
Channeling Parents' Anger Program,
Institute for Mental Health Initiatives,
Washington, DC

Government can't do it all—the private sector and communities must come together in a social movement

"There's an enormous potential for growth and healing in this country if we can focus on people who need help and give them some kind of future. We need a national effort."

James Bonczek, Social Worker, New York, NY

"We all have to band together. The community must come together and work closely with the agencies in parenting the children. I believe that if a community can come together, work together and play together, the youth of the nation will be saved."

Domico Curry, 20, Seattle Youth Involvement, Seattle, WA

"Uniting the community to understand each other's problems and to help and support each other is far more important than just a massive army of police officers."

R. Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police, Fort Pierce, FL

"We've got to strengthen the natural mechanisms that make a community work. Families, schools. Expanding programs such as Healthy Start in Hawaii. Communities with high rates of adult involvement with youth, who listen to youth, have less trouble."

John Calhoun, Director, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC

"It doesn't make sense to arm ourselves in an attempt to protect ourselves. What we've got to do is improve our communities."

Dr. David Satcher, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

"It goes back to the community. Is the community willing to take the streets back? Is the school community willing to say, no, this is a building where children will not live in fear. This is about education. This is about listening to youth. It's about nurturing."

Anna Salamone-Consoli, Principal, Bulkeley High School, Hartford, CT

Children must speak up—to someone when they've been abused—and out to the world

"The incidence of reporting child abuse is increasing. That's good. Through schools and other programs, children are beginning to realize that there is somebody on their side. Whatever we can do as a society to encourage our young people to come forward and report what is happening, the better off we'll be."

Paul Ebert, Commonwealth's Attorney, Prince William County, VA

"For a child to not explain or tell what is happening to them because of fear is exactly what the perpetrator wants to happen. I want more kids to be able to stand up and say, you can't do that any more."

Deborah Derby, 18, Socorro, NM

"No matter what problem there is in your life, don't be scared or afraid to come forth and have someone help you to get over it."

Layelda Laguerra, 13, Children's Express Reporter, Washington Bureau

"Your small voices need to be joined in one loud voice of outrage. Your voices need to unite to make this country realize that children have to be a priority."

Anna Salamone-Consoli, Principal, Bulkeley High School, Hartford, CT

It will take both children and adults working together to solve the violence problem

"We've seen that young people have not only lost their trust in adults...they've also lost their belief in themselves as competent people. We've tried to involve youth in developing all of our programs...and thereby helping them rebuild their relationships with adults and with each other."

Barbara Kawliche, Director, New Beginnings, Lewiston, ME

"If the community would give youth a chance to grow, give youth a chance to be positive, perhaps the violence would be lowered."

Donny Hinkle, 18, Youth As Resources Indianapolis, IN

"At P.A.C.E. you get individual counseling and they take the time out with you so that you understand what's going on. There's adult expertise and there's children expertise. We learn from them and they learn from us."

Dominique Stevens, 12, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Dade County, Miami, FL

"We need to help kids, but we also have got to claim kids and say, we need you, you're part of us. Teens ache to belong and to give. There exists a vast reservoir of idealism, but we tend not to tap it. We don't even look for it very often. Give youth the opportunity to serve. We have seen youth do extraordinary things for their communities."

John Calhoun, Director, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC

"I really wish that kids were given more opportunity to be involved in the solution for violence because they are the ones that are most at risk and they genuinely know what needs to be done to reduce the violence that affects their lives. They have a right to demand respect from adults, just as adults demand respect from them."

Sherman Spears, 23, Youth Alive!/ Teens on Target, Oakland, CA

"There is so much that we can do on the streets of America, galvanizing the tremendous energy and the great desire of young people to contribute, to be somebody, to be a part of making America a better place."

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

We need to make children a priority (again) and make a national commitment to that priority

"My first wish is that children would become a priority in this world. If children would become a priority, then everything else would come in place."

Anna Salamone-Consoli, Principal Bulkeley High School, Hartford, CT

"Why don't Americans see children as our future and the most important thing in which to invest our tax dollars? We're like a country with an attitude about kids and the attitude is that we don't want to spend money on them."

Representative Pat Schroeder (D-CO)

"America is highly guilty over having neglected our young. Now guns as a major children's health issue and public health hazard has become a dominant issue among the American people. Mark it well. Our people are determined in the name of their children to stamp this threat out."

Lou Harris, President, LH Research, Inc., New York, NY

"Give youth the opportunity to serve. We have seen youth do extraordinary things for their communities. The most important single challenge before America in the '90s is to build a sense of community that transcends individualism to serve us. We need to transform the American perspective from me to we."

John Calhoun, Director, National Crime Prevention Council, Washington, DC

"It's imperative that we all join together to develop a national agenda for children."

Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

APPENDIX B

Children's Express Hearing Examiners Biographies

Reniqua Allen, 12 (New York Bureau)
Reniqua is currently in the seventh grade at St. John's in Leonia, NJ, near her home in Englewood. She has been a member of the Children's Express New York Bureau for one year. In that time, she has interviewed CORE President Roy Innis and former NYC schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez, covered the U.S. National Conference of Mayors, and worked on the 1994 KIDS COUNT Data Book. Her hobbies include swimming and skiing.

Megan Burke, 13 (New York Bureau)
Megan has worked on stories covering such topics as abortion, crack babies, child labor laws, youth violence, the Gulf War, sexual harassment, and sexism in schools. She has been a reporter for four years and plans on possibly pursuing a career in journalism when she is older.

Suki Cheong, 16 (New York Bureau)
Suki, a student at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, has been a Children's Express reporter and editor for six years. In 1988, she received the Peabody and Emmy Awards for journalism for a TV special on the 1988 Presidential elections. This summer, she worked with CE on the 1994 KIDS COUNT project, planning trips and interviewing gang members and young people in detention centers and on Indian reservations. When she is not at CE, she likes to watch foreign films, read, and participate in her school debate team.

Jwahara R. Coleman, 13 (Washington Bureau)
Jwahara, an eighth-grader at Jefferson Junior High School, is a DC resident and a reporter from the original team trained for the Washington Bureau one year ago. She is currently working on stories on perceptions of Malcolm X and the "recycling" of youthful offenders through the criminal justice system.

Kristen Crockett, 16 (Washington Bureau)
Kristen is a senior at the National Cathedral School in Washington, where she is vice president of Student Government. Kristen, an editor at Children's Express, worked on the KIDS COUNT project this summer, traveling to West Virginia, Alabama, and Texas to interview youth at risk.

Tony Dale, 13 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Tony is in the eighth grade at St. Barnabas School on the southside of Indianapolis. He has been a reporter for Children's Express in Indianapolis for one year. Tony has three sisters and two brothers. His interests include reading, writing, and playing golf. Tony's most memorable story was with kids from the Juvenile Detention Center about AIDS. Tony hopes to pursue a career in broadcast journalism or travel.

Cat Deakins, 17 (New York Bureau)
Cat has been a member of Children's Express since she was eight years old. She's lived in Manhattan her whole life and has done gymnastics on city teams since she was about six. With CE, she went to the 1988 Republican National Convention as a reporter, and worked on segments of the Children's Express News Magazine TV show on PBS from 1988 to 1989. She also participated in the CE Symposia on the Media and Children's Issues in 1985, 1987, and 1990.

Chela Delgado, 12 (Oakland Bureau)
Chela is a seventh-grader at Bret Harte Junior High School in Oakland. She joined Children's Express this year, participated in the KIDS COUNT project, and especially enjoyed an interview with Dr. Barbara Staggers, head of the Oakland Children's Hospital Teen Clinic. She is a member of the Alameda Children's Musical Theater and swims competitively in the summers.

Cindy Dyar, 13 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Cindy is an eighth-grader who attends St. Jude Catholic School in Indianapolis. She has been part of the Children's Express bureau in Indianapolis for eight months. She likes to play soccer and read novels in her spare time. Cindy thinks that these hearings will be her most memorable experience.

Jacqueline Fisher, 12 (Washington Bureau)
Jacki, an eighth-grader at Jefferson Junior High School worked on the hearings because she wanted to help stop the violence in schools so that kids can stop being afraid and get back to learning. In her free time she likes to work on the computer, write, and talk on the phone.

Jonathan Franks, 11 (Washington Bureau)
A sixth-grader at Sheridan School, Jonathan joined CE last May. He enjoys doing background research for stories. He is currently working on a story on the "recycling" of young offenders in the criminal justice system.

Julia Hastings-Black, 11 (Washington Bureau)
Julia is a sixth-grader at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC. As a Children's Express reporter, Julia worked on a story about the new Holocaust Memorial. Outside of CE, Julia is especially interested in music and the arts.

Layeida Laguerra, 13 (Washington Bureau)
Layeida was one of the first group of reporters in the Washington Bureau. In the eighth grade at Jefferson Junior High School, Layeida covered the Presidential Inauguration for CE. Layeida is particularly interested in these hearings because she has been a witness to violence.

Gibran McDonald, 13 (Oakland Bureau)
Gibran, an eighth-grader at Head-Royce School in Oakland, joined Children's Express this year. Among his his most memorable stories was an interview with Sherman Spears of Youth Alive! He plays basketball, is a boy scout, and is a member of Junior Southerneers, a black history club.

David Meadvin, 12 (New York Bureau)
David has been a member of Children's Express in New York for three years. He is chairman of the New York Bureau's Reporter Board. He covered the Democratic National Convention last year, the 1993 Mayor's Conference, and other special events. His major interest is political campaigning, and he has been involved in this year's New York City mayoral campaign.

Sam Mende-Wong, 10 (Oakland Bureau)
Sam is a fifth-grader at Beacon Day School in Oakland. Among his favorite stories since joining CE this year was an interview with Sherman Spears of Youth Alive! He enjoys a variety of sports, including ice hockey, soccer, archery, fencing, and martial arts. He has appeared in dancing and singing roles with the Bay Revels and Opera.

Oliver Nicholas, 10 (Washington Bureau)
Oliver is a fifth-grader at Sheridan School. He joined Children's Express last May, and he presently is working on two stories: "Perceptions of Malcolm X" and "The U.S.-Japan Handgun Protest." Oliver likes to keep snakes.

Ilana Novick, 9 (New York Bureau)
Ilana, a reporter for the CE New York Bureau, goes to the Village Community School in New York City. Her main interests are acting, dancing and being a reporter. She participated in these hearings because she had heard a lot about youth violence and wanted to know more about why it's happening and who's doing it.

Daniel Saunders, 10 (Washington Bureau)
Daniel is a fifth-grader at Sheridan School who became a Children's Express reporter last spring. He is presently on the team working on the U.S.-Japan handgun protest story. Daniel is originally from London. He enjoys riding his bike and making model planes.

Lisa Schubert, 13 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Lisa is in the eighth grade at Fall Creek Valley Middle School in suburban Indianapolis. She has been a reporter at Children's Express in Indianapolis for three years and her first memorable assignment was interviewing retired Supreme Court Justice William Brennan. This summer, traveling to Missoula, MT, for the KIDS COUNT project, she spoke with at-risk kids willing to share their stories, which had a powerful impact on Lisa.

Kelley J. Smith, 13 (Washington Bureau)
Kelley is an eighth-grader at Deal Junior High School. She participated in the hearings because she feels that today's youth may be extinct by the year 2000, with the way things are going today. She presently is a member of the roundtable team preparing a story on being black in DC.

Malik Thompson, 16 (Oakland Bureau)
Malik is a junior at St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley, CA. In his four-and-a-half years as a member of Children's Express, he participated in the 1992 Democratic National Convention, the Oakland Bureau's 1991 hearings on kids and crack, and the 1992 hearings on kids and violence. Last summer he interviewed at-risk children in Los Angeles for the KIDS COUNT project. He also has participated in a radio apprenticeship program at KPFB in Berkeley

Amy Weisenbach, 17 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Amy is a senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. She was one of the first kids trained in the Indianapolis Bureau of Children's Express. She covered the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston and worked on the CE book, Voices From The Future. She also traveled to Chicago and Boston for the 1994 KIDS COUNT project.

Matt White, 15 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Matt is a freshman at Pike High School in Indianapolis. In his three years with Children's Express, Matt has done many stories with a broad range in topics, but his most memorable story was with civil rights activist Rosa Parks. Matt hopes to continue writing and pursue a career in journalism.

Megan White, 14 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Megan attends Christ the King Catholic School and is in eighth grade. She has been with Children's Express in Indianapolis for two-and-a-half years. In her spare time you can find her playing a variety of sports, such as basketball and kickball. She also likes to write stories and listen to music. Megan's most memorable story is the one she is about to tackle.

Sasha Whyte, 13 (New York Bureau)
Sasha is a reporter at Children's Express in New York. She goes to I.S. 181 in the Bronx. She has interviewed New York City Mayor David Dinkins, New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, and Dr. Judy. She has also done stories on hospital emergency rooms, sex education, and the school asbestos problem.

Ben Young, 12 (Indianapolis Bureau)
Ben is a seventh-grader at Northview Middle School in Indianapolis. He has been a Children's Express reporter for two years, and his most memorable assignment was interviewing President Clinton. Covering the Democratic Convention last year and going to New Mexico for the KIDS COUNT project to interview Native American youths also left a powerful impression on Ben.

APPENDIX C

Witnesses and Speakers Biographies

Philip Adams
Mr. Adams is a former charter boat captain and diving instructor who has been working in the juvenile rehabilitation field for 15 years. He has been the Executive Director of the Last Chance Ranch for the past 14 months. Mr. Adams has been married to his wife Cheryl for 14 years and has two children – Brad, 10, and Summer, 2.

Juanita Lea Ansell
A resident at Bethel Bible Village since January 1990, Juanita is currently in an independent living program designed to prepare youth for self-sufficiency. A 16-year-old high school junior, she holds a part-time job and participates in weekly individual and peer group counseling. She plans to attend college and is considering a career in social work. Juanita's father is incarcerated in the Tennessee State Prison for the sexual abuse of four boys. Due to mental illness, her mother currently resides in a group home for adults who are unable to live independently.

Caren Bates
A native of Texas, 16-year-old Caren lives at the Lena Pope Home for Children in Fort Worth. She lived with her abusive parents until she was twelve and has been in placements ever since. Both of her parents verbally and physically abused her and her siblings; her father abused her sexually. Caren has made a lot of progress but continues to work through the issues of her past.

Gary D. Behler
Mr. Behler has been the Director of Program Services for Bethel Bible Village since 1991. He supervises the staff, including direct care houseparent staff, social workers and educational coordinators, as well as coordinating all programs and activities for the children. Prior to joining Bethel, Mr. Behler spent nine years working at adult corrections facilities. He holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. While at Bethel, Mr. Behler has had the unique experience of working with several children whose parents he had previously held in custody.

Peter D. Blauvelt
An international consultant on school crime and violence issues, Mr. Blauvelt has been Director of Security for the Prince George's County Public Schools since 1971. A former detective with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department, Mr. Blauvelt also served for three years as a Special Agent for the Naval Investigative Service. He is the author of two books: Controlling Crime in the School (with S.D. Vestermark) and Effective Strategies for School Security. Mr. Blauvelt serves on the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council in Maryland, is the co-founder and chairman of the Board for the National Alliance for Safe Schools, and serves as Chairman of the Board for the National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers.

James F. Bonczek, C.S.W.
As a school social worker, Mr. Bonczek first met Rosemarie and Jose Perez in an elementary school program. Years later, Mr. Bonczek became aware of the crisis facing the children following the death of their mother. By this time the children were already in foster care. Chance lead the children's natural father to Mr. Bonczek at which time he intervened to help reunite the family. Mr. Bonczek was graduated from Syracuse University and earned a master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

Vicki Burke
Founder of the P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, Inc., Vicki Burke is currently co-chair of the National Girls Caucus and the State of Florida Girls Task Force. Vicki holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina.

John A. Calhoun
Mr. Calhoun is Executive Director of the National Crime Prevention Council, a non-governmental organization that provides comprehensive assistance in community crime prevention to national, state and local groups. An appointee under President Carter, Mr. Calhoun served as the U.S. Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, where he created the Office for Families and Office of Domestic Violence. He later served as vice president and director of public policy for the Child Welfare League of America. Before coming to Washington, he was appointed by the governor to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services in Massachusetts. He founded and directed the Justice Resource Institute which pioneered such programs as pre-trial diversion for youth.

Charles Castillo
Charles is 15 years old and lives in Houston, TX, with his mother and two sisters. Involved in the Houston Area Exchange Club Police Activities League (PAL), Inc. program since he was nine, Charles claims that PAL's youth crime prevention program has helped him and his family. In addition to making many friends through PAL, Charles has been able to help others. The program has also honed Charles' decision-making skills.

Mary E. Cherry, M.S.W.
Ms. Cherry is the Executive Director of P.A.C.E. Practical and Cultural Education Center for Girls/Dade. She holds a B.S. degree in social welfare and an M.S.W. Before coming to P.A.C.E., she worked for several years with the homeless and then as director of a shelter for homeless women and children. Her special interest is in ensuring that women achieve empowerment.

Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, M.D., M.P.H.
Dr. Christoffel, the mother of two adolescents, is a professor of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University School of Medicine and an attending pediatrician at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention. A childhood injury researcher, Dr. Christoffel has published extensively on motor vehicle injuries, consumer product related injuries, child abuse, firearms and other violence issues.

Henry Culbreth
A junior at McKinley High School, Henry experienced violence on the streets of Washington, DC, firsthand when he was mistaken for someone else and shot in his LeDroit Park neighborhood. He is involved in Funds for the Community's Future's DC project.

Domico Curry
Domico is 20 years old and resides in Seattle with his fiance and their newborn son. He is the Assistant Director of Seattle Youth Involvement and the Founder and Executive Director of All Brothers Allowed, an anti-gang and anti-drug organization. A former gang member, Domico has six years experience as a peer counselor. He attended Livingston University in Alabama.

Frances Davis
A resident of Brooklyn, NY, Ms. Davis lost all three of her sons in the last six years due to acts of violence. Her oldest son was killed during a robbery attempt. Suffering multiple gunshot wounds, her middle son was killed following an argument. In July of this year, her youngest son was caught in the crossfire during a street fight. Ms. Davis is now concerned for the safety of her two nephews who live with her. She is attempting to help them cope with the violent world around them by encouraging them to think for themselves and to realize that it is okay to be afraid and it is okay to walk away.

Deborah Derby
Eighteen-year-old Deborah was a victim of her father's physical and sexual abuse at a young age. She attempted suicide at age eleven. Deborah and her mother (who was also battered) left home, encountering many difficulties with shelter living. After her father's prosecution and several years of therapy, Deborah learned to channel her anger positively. She is studying biochemistry at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro.

Paul B. Ebert, Esq.
Mr. Ebert, Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince William County (VA) since 1968, was educated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and George Washington University School of Law. He is a Past President of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys and was the first chairman of the Commonwealth's Attorneys Services and Training Council. He has been appointed as Special Prosecutor for various counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is extremely concerned with the prosecution of criminal acts toward children.

Shirley Ann Fikes
Eleven-year-old Shirley has experienced the extreme ravages of violence in her life by losing three of her brothers – one to AIDS, one to a gun shot, and one to a knife wound. The Safe Haven after-school program in Fort Worth, TX, has enabled Shirley to cope with her difficult situation. A fifth-grader at Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary, she recently participated in the United Negro College Fund's "Walk A Mile To Save A Mind" walkathon, is a member of the cheerleading squad, and attends church regularly. Shirley hopes to have a career in computers some day.

Louis Harris
A renowned pollster, author, and speaker, Mr. Harris has been in the business of informing the American public for five decades. His firm, LH Research, recently completed a study about guns among young Americans for the Harvard School of Public Health (under a grant from the Joyce Foundation). Over the years, Mr. Harris has seen the output of more than 9,000 surveys covering a wide spectrum of political, marketing, health, financial, and cultural research.

Sherrod Harris
Moving from central Mississippi to Chicago's West Side in 1989, Sherrod left a school of 300 students for an urban school of 1,500. His experiences at Kelvin Park High School were significantly influenced by the tension and violence brought on by gangs and their attendant racial strife. Facing History and Ourselves, part of the curriculum at Kelvin Park High, focuses on the decision-making process in violence prevention and encourages students to look for alternative solutions to violent behavior based on past historical events. Facing History is one of 21 organizations recently selected to be part of the National Network of Violence Prevention Practitioners.

Leah Harrison, R.N., M.S.N., C.P.N.P.
As a member of the Child Protection Center at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY, Ms. Harrison provides health care and comprehensive services to suspected abused and neglected infants, children, and adolescents. A national expert in the field of child sexual abuse, she has addressed professionals (i.e. doctors, nurses, and social workers) and provided community outreach to children and lay organizations including PTAs, day care centers, and schools.

Hope M. Hill, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Howard University, Dr. Hill is Director of the Violence Prevention Project. She developed the Graham Windham Parenting Program, focusing on life planning, adult development, child development, communication between parent and child, and handling child behavioral problems. Dr. Hill has written and presented extensively on the socio-emotional development of children at risk due to poverty and social stressors and the impact of urban violence on the psychological development of children. Dr. Hill holds degrees from Wesleyan University, UCLA, Columbia University, and Yale University. She sits on the American Psychological Association Committee on Youth Violence and the Values Commission for the DC Public Schools.

Donny Hinkle
Donny, 18, lives in Indianapolis with his wife and daughter. He is a former gang member who was into Satan worship and self-mutilation and is an alumnus of a series of group homes. Donny turned his life around with the help of the National Crime Prevention Council's Youth As Resources program (YAR). YAR is a locally-based program that asks youth to shape their own roles in the community. YAR visited one of Donny's group homes and sold him on becoming involved.

Aaron Hunter
Aaron, 18, is from the Sarasota/Bradenton area of Florida. Aaron was sent to the Last Chance Ranch program in February 1993, charged with vehicular homicide and with 29 prior arrests. Aaron has made tremendous improvements. He hopes to enter Phase III of the program and go home near Christmas time.

Anthony Jones
Mr. Jones heads the youth services department of Germantown Settlement, in Germantown, PA. With a comprehensive approach to youth development, the department offers individual and group counseling, lifeskills training, tutoring, emergency services, recreation as prevention, and day treatment to at-risk children.

R. Gil Kerlikowske
Chief Kerlikowske was appointed Chief of Police in Fort Pierce, FL, in January of 1990. Prior to his appointment he served as Chief of Police in Port St. Lucie, FL, for three years. He began his law enforcement career in 1972 with the St. Petersburg Police Department, where he served as the commanding officer of several divisions. He received a one-year fellowship from the U.S. Department of Justice in 1985 to evaluate police procedures throughout the country. Chief Kerlikowske holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of South Florida (Tampa) in criminal justice. He is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy and the Executive Session on Policing at Harvard University.

Robin Keys
As case manager at City Lights School, Ms. Keys serves as the critical link among the various facets of a student's life—relating the school experience to family and to social services, the judicial system, and the workplace. She has worked with City Lights students for more than ten years. Prior to City Lights, Ms. Keys served as an intern at Phipps Psychiatric Hospital in Baltimore, as well as in the Baltimore City Public Schools and the Children's Guild, a program for young emotionally disturbed students.

Tammy Lott
Sixteen-year-old Tammy has not been adjudicated, but was referred to Germantown Settlement by the courts. Tammy had an especially turbulent relationship with her stepfather, a substance abuser, who consistently took out his anger on her. Tammy is involved in Germantown's Prevention Program, which features services for youth at risk of engaging in illegal behavior.

Ronald Lott
Ronald Lott first became involved with Funds for the Community's Future as a means to fulfill the community service portion of his probation. He has since parlayed his experience to become more involved in his neighborhood in northwest DC. A lifelong resident of the District, Ronald was graduated from McKinley High School in 1993.

Chris Mason
A graduate of the University of Michigan, Chris Mason is director of operations for Funds for the Community's Future (FCF) in Washington, DC. Mr. Mason oversees FCF's DC Project—running programs in three high schools and 17 neighborhoods in need. He previously worked as a trader for Prudential Securities and helped raise money for a handicapped children's fund while at Michigan.

Phredd MatthewsWall
A Facing History and Ourselves program associate, Mr. MatthewsWall facilitates professional institutes for educators involved in teaching the Facing History curriculum. He also holds student discussion groups which enable teenagers to convene and discuss the impact of violence and racism in their lives. Mr. MatthewsWall has been a classroom teacher and curriculum developer in Massachusetts, as well as program director for the New England Anti-Defamation League's "World of Difference" campaign.

Shekia McPherson
Shekia is a 14-year-old, born and raised in inner-city Miami. Although very young, she is the product of an extremely violent background and has been in the juvenile justice system for several years. Shekia was referred to P.A.C.E./Dade as an alternative to incarceration.

Leon Merritt
Leon is a 14-year-old living in Forestville, MD, with his parents and two brothers. He is a ninth-grader at Largo High School, aspiring to become a doctor. During a drive-by shooting in November 1992, Leon was shot in the head and shoulder. After spending three days fighting for his life, he miraculously survived. Leon has suffered no physical after-effects of the tragedy and is coping well with the support of his family. He even managed to maintain a B-grade point average while on home study during his recuperation.

Yasmeen Nixon
Nineteen-year-old Yasmeen has been enrolled at City Lights School for almost three years. City Lights is a psychoeducational day treatment program that serves emotionally disturbed and delinquent youth. A resident of Washington, DC, Yasmeen is preparing for her GED and exploring career options, preferably in office services.

Phyllis Old Dog Cross
Ms. Old Dog Cross is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota (Tribal identification: Mandan/Hidatsa) and has spent most of her professional career working with Native Americans. She holds an M.S. in nursing and psychology from the University of Colorado. She is certified as an addictions specialist. Ms. Old Dog Cross worked with the President's Commission for Mental Health in 1978 and served on several workgroups including the Surgeon General's Task Force on Violence in 1986. At present, she is affiliated with Futures for Children, a national, private organization dealing with self-help projects as well as American Indian leadership projects.

Frank Orlando
Retired Judge Orlando is presently director of the Center for the Study of Youth Policy at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He is also an adjunct professor in the College of Urban & Public Affairs at Florida Atlantic University. He has lectured and published extensively on the issue of juvenile justice. Judge Orlando received his B.S. and J.D. degrees from the University of Florida.

Christine E. Pawelski, Ed.D.
Dr. Pawelski is currently an assistant professor in the Special Education Department at Brooklyn College. She is a special educator by background and training, having graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University, with a masters degree in Counseling of the Handicapped and a doctorate in Special Education Research and Training. She is a specialist in low-incidence populations, directing and coordinating numerous state and federal innovative educational projects nationwide involving individuals who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind, mentally retarded and multiply handicapped. Over the last 10 years she has developed training and materials related to the prevention of child abuse involving children with disabilities and their families.

Ken Papierz
Officer Papierz, born and raised on Chicago's West Side, was exposed to poverty, gangs and youth violence at a young age. He has been a member of the Houston Police Activities League (PAL) for eight years and developed a comprehensive crime prevention program that encompasses tutoring, academic achievement, athletics, field trips, and community service projects. His grandfather's support and encouragement enabled him to excel in the classroom and he was one the few teenagers from his neighborhood to attend college.

Sarah Pearson
Sarah, a sixth-grader, is a participant and volunteer with the Fort Pierce, FL, Neighborhood Police Station tutoring program. This model partnership among the police department, schools, community college volunteers, and neighborhood residents is increasing trust and respect between police and residents and decreasing the incidence of violence in the community. Neighborhoods nationwide are adopting similar programs because of their proven success. Having overcome setbacks due to childhood epilepsy, Sarah has shown remarkable improvement in school and plans to attend college to study medicine.

Rosemarie and Jose Perez
Thirteen-year-old Rosemarie and 11-year-old Jose witnessed many incidents of violence in their home at an early age. After their mother was murdered at the hands of their stepfather, they were shuffled to many foster homes. Through extensive therapy and the help of a concerned social worker, Rosemarie and Jose are now reunited with their natural father in a stable environment.

Ron Pettiway
Mr. Pettiway has been working with youth in crisis for the past six years at City Lights School, first as a teacher and currently as staff supervisor involved in the day-to-day operation of the school. An educator in the Washington, DC, area since 1971, Mr. Pettiway believes the purpose of education for troubled youth is to strengthen their academic, vocational, conflict management, parenting, and social skills.

Barbara Rawn
Ms. Rawn is the Executive Director of Virginians for Child Abuse Prevention (VCAP) which works to prevent child abuse and neglect through public education, parenting programs, and advocacy. Ms. Rawn has been working in the field of domestic violence for thirteen years. Striving to abolish corporal punishment in Virginia's public schools is an effort for which she feels most proud. VCAP is the only statewide, private, non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in Virginia. VCAP has 23 affiliates and 57 programs across the state.

Anna Salamone-Consoli
Ms. Salamone-Consoli has been the principal at Bulkeley High School in Hartford, CT, for the past six years. In a school where 20% of the student population are gang members, Ms. Salamone-Consoli has faced numerous obstacles in dealing with gangs and their effect in the schools. By checking out every rumor, working closely with parents to monitor their children's behavior, and using an honest and fair approach to solving problems, she has earned the respect necessary to grapple with the difficult issues her students face.

Miguel Sanchez
Miguel, a sophomore at Aviation High School in New York, was born in the Dominican Republic and has lived in the United States for five years. After witnessing many of his friends either injured or killed due to random acts of violence, Miguel self-imposed a curfew. As the only son in a family of sixteen children, Miguel has developed a sense of personal responsibility and self-determination. His goal is to become a power plant mechanic.

Melissa L. Sarabia
Ms. Sarabia has been a social worker at Bethel Bible Village since February 1990. Her responsibilities include assessing incoming clients, providing case management services to clients and their families, developing individual client program plans and foster care plans, reporting to the Juvenile Court and Foster Care Review Board, and coordinating medical and psychological services for Village residents. Ms. Sarabia received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Tennessee. Prior to Bethel Bible Village, she worked with the Tennessee Department of Human Services as a foster care social worker

David Satcher, M.D.
Currently president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, Dr. Satcher is the incoming director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One of eight children raised by farmers whose formal education ended in elementary school, Dr. Satcher decided to pursue a career in medicine at the age of eight. High atop his agenda is the issue of violence as a public health concern.

Representative Patricia Scott Schroeder (D-CO)
Recently rated "one of the six most respected women in America" by a Gallup Poll, Congresswoman Schroeder has been in Congress since 1972 and was appointed chair of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families in 1991. A co-founder of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, she is the author of Champion of the Great American Family and places special emphasis on establishing federal policies that meet the needs of families. She authored the Family and Medical Leave Act in the 102nd Congress. Congresswoman Schroeder graduated magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota and received her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Ira Schwartz
Professor Schwartz is Dean of the School of Social Work and Director of the Center for the Study of Youth Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. Formerly he was professor and director of the Center for the Study of Youth Policy at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work and a Senior Fellow at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. From 1979-1981, he served as the administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. Professor Schwartz is the author of (In)Justice for Juveniles: Rethinking the Best Interests of the Child, and the recently edited Juvenile Justice and Public Policy: Toward A National Agenda (both from Lexington Books).

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL)
The son of missionaries, Senator Simon grew up in Eugene, OR. Senator Simon has been in Congress since 1974 – first in the House, then in the Senate. Championing the interests of working families and others needing a voice in the nation's affairs, Senator Simon has shown his effectiveness with a wide-ranging agenda, emphasizing education, job training, and health care. He entered the University of Oregon at age 16 to study journalism. A writer and former newspaper publisher, he has 12 books and a weekly column to his credit.

Sherman Spears
Mr. Spears is the Program Coordinator for Youth Alive, a violence prevention agency dedicated to reducing violent injuries to young people. The victim of a violent shooting that left him paralyzed and wheelchair-bound at the age of 18, Mr. Spears now acts as an advocate for violence prevention with Teens on Target, a program based on the idea that young people are better equipped than adults to attack the violence issue. Along with other members of Teens on Target, he has spoken about the issues of teen violence at national conferences, city gatherings, and public schools, and on CNN. Mr. Spears is currently working to start a program that will enable young people to enter hospitals to talk to recently injured teenagers about the effects of violence.

Dominique Stevens
Raised in a privileged background, 13-year-old Dominique is from a middle-class Miami suburb. Her life changed dramatically when her parents separated in 1991; the pain and emotional trauma associated with this event has filled her with anger which sometimes results in violent behavior. She was referred to P.A.C.E./Dade by her mother who was concerned about her chronic truancy.

Dennis Stovall
Dennis is from Virginia, and is 16 years old. He has escaped from every secure facility to which he was sent in Virginia. He entered the Last Chance Ranch program in Venus, FL, in May 1993. Dennis' case is serving as a test for the state of Virginia to see if the program really works for habitual offenders. He hopes to return home in April 1994.

Suzanne Stutman, M.A., M.S.W., B.C.D.

Ms. Stutman is Executive Director of the Institute for Mental Health Initiatives (IMHI), a non-profit organization in Washington, DC, where she designs and implements innovative programs for the prevention of emotional disorders. IMHI enlists the support of producers, directors, and writers in its efforts to transform complex mental health concepts into positive models of human interaction. Ms. Stutman has appeared on radio and TV talk shows and has written articles about IMHI's work on child development, anger portrayals on daytime and primetime TV, managing anger, and fostering resilience.

Damon Venable

A junior at Annandale (VA) High School, Damon has been actively involved in peer counseling and peer mediation since the seventh grade. He was instrumental in helping to bring the peer mediation program to Annandale and has worked closely with several cases involving peer conflict resolution. In January 1993 Damon was shot by another student during an argument. Recovered from his accident, Damon has strengthened his resolve to settle disputes non-violently. Annandale's program has been successful in dealing with numerous on-campus conflicts.

Preston Vereen

A Washington, DC, resident, 18-year-old Preston has studied at City Lights School for two years. He has had extensive work experience—particularly in construction—and likes to work with his hands. He is preparing for the GED and seeking regular employment.

Alonzo Washington

Recently profiled in The Washington Post Magazine, 20-year-old Alonzo is a barber's apprentice studying for his GED. In 1991, he was busted while hustling crack cocaine and sentenced to Cedar Knoll, a Washington, DC, juvenile detention facility. Alonzo is the proud father of 22-month-old Alonzo, Jr. He is on a career track thanks to his mentor, Ronald Mitchell of the Park-Ritchie barbershop in Takoma Park, MD.

George Zitnay, Ph.D.

Dr. Zitnay has over 30 years experience in the field of disability. He has been a superintendent of a major mental health hospital; the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Development Disability for the state of Maine; the Commissioner of Mental Retardation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Assistant Professor of Psychology at Boston University Medical School; and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and Leslie College. Prior to becoming the President of the National Head Injury Foundation in 1990, Dr. Zitnay served as the Executive Director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation where he directed all research, grant, legislative public policy and educational programs of the foundation.

APPENDIX D

Programs Highlighted in The Hearings

Bethel Bible Village
3001 Hamill Road, Hixon, TN 37343
(615) 842-5757
Gary Behler, Director of Program Services
Melissa Sarabia, Social Worker
Juanita Ansell, Resident

City Lights School
62 T Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
(202) 832-4366
Bert L'Homme, Executive Director
Ron Pettiway, Staff Supervisor
Robin Keys, Case Manager
Yasmeen Nixon, Student
Preston Vereen, Student

El Dorado Terrace Tutorial Program
1003 North 23rd Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(407) 461-3820
Gil Kerlikowske, Chief of Police, Fort Pierce, FL
Maria T. Pearson, Founder
Sarah Pearson, Student

Facing History and Ourselves
16 Hurd Road, Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 232-1595
Margot Stern Strom, Executive Director
Phredd MatthewsWall, Program Associate

Funds for the Community's Future
1150 18th Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-5760
David Milner, President
Chris Mason, Director of DC Operations
Henry Culbreth, Student
Ronald Lott, Student

Germantown Settlement Youth Services
45 Maplewood Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19144
(215) 848-6842
Anthony Jones, Project Director
Tammy Lott, Student

Houston Area Exchange Clubs' Police Activities League, Inc.
P.O. Box 2228, Houston, TX 77252
(713) 221-0625
Mark P. Whitmore, Officer
Kenneth Papierz, Officer
Charles Castillo, Student

Last Chance Ranch
c/o Florida Environmental Institute, Box 406, Venus, FL 33906
(813) 465-6508
Philip Adams, Executive Director
Aaron Hunter, Resident
Dennis Stoval, Resident

Lena Pope Home for Children
4701 West Rosedale, Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 731-4294
Ted Blevins, Executive Director
Caren Bates, Student

National Crime Prevention Council
Youth As Resources, 1700 K Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20006
(202) 466-6272
John Calhoun, Executive Director
Donny Hinkle, Student

New Beginnings
436 Main Street, Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 795-4077
Barbara Kawliche, Director

New Directions
1650 Selwyn Avenue, New York, NY 10451
(718) 583-1928
Miguel Garcia, Director
Miguel Sanchez, Student

P.A.C.E. Center for Girls/Dade
3000 N.W. 32nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33142
(305) 633-9357
Vicki Burke, Founder
Mary Cherry, Executive Director, Dade
Shekia McPherson, Student
Dominique Stevens, Student

Safe Haven
501 Missouri, Fort Worth, TX 76104
(817) 877-4363
McRee Lester, Program Coordinator
Shirely Ann Fikes, Student

Seattle Youth Involvement
107 Cherry Street, 5th Floor, Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 461-8524
Christine Stickler, Executive Director
Domico Curry, Project Assistant

Youth Alive! / Teens On Target
At Summit Medical Center, South Pavillion, 2nd Floor, 350 Hawthorne Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 450-6225
Deane Calhoun, Executive Director
Sherman Spears, Program Coordinator

APPENDIX E

MEDIA QUOTES

"Yet these questioners weren't the usual assortment of jowls, craggy voices and receding hairlines. Instead, their heads were barely visible above the table, and their voices had a prepubescent ring. Children's Express, a kids organization known for grass roots journalistic projects, had gone Washington."

Mark Caro
Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL
11/1/93

"Young victims of violence from parents, siblings and other children, testified before a panel of their peers yesterday as national leaders took notes."

Paul Shepard
Plain Dealer, Cleveland, OH
10/26/93

"The most heartwarming aspect of these hearings was how young people of different racial-ethnic and class backgrounds, from different parts of the country, of different ages instantaneously hit it off, buzzing away as only excited and innocent young people can. What they heard about abuse and violence to children not much different from them stole some of their innocence perhaps, but what they will remember will be the feeling of community and family that evolved in ways that should be a model for grown-ups who often forget those simple concepts."

William Wong
Oakland Tribune, Oakland, CA
10/29/93

"The children, ages 8-13, turned the tables on politicians and experts as they searched for answers to why young people face mounting violence at home, in school and on the streets."

News Herald
Franklin, PA
10/28/93

"At day's end, the kid reporters, with the confidence of youth, were sure their generation will do better. Until then, though, they know it's a world where a stray bullet can change everything."

John Cochran
NBC News, Washington, DC

"The subject – violence in the child's life. Three days of uncommon stories have revealed stories with a common theme: children in desperate situations finding the same answers to the sometimes overwhelming problems in their lives...they may have different solutions, but they share some basic themes: a safe place, a chance to succeed, someone to listen, a sense of belonging. It can take so little to change a life."

Rebecca Chase
American Agenda, ABC News

"For children all across America, violence is an ugly fact of life, and today a group of young reporters are trying to highlight some of the problems and explore some solutions...The conference is aimed at getting the public involved in fighting all kinds of violence against children."

Doreen Gentzler
WRC-TV (NBC),
Washington, DC

"Children raised their voices against violence today. A group of young journalists held hearings in Washington, DC, on the issue. They questioned experts on what's being done to stop violence at home, and at school and on the streets."

Rolland Smith
KNSD-TV (NBC),
San Diego, CA

"They're the stories of children who are caught in the crossfire of violence. This is all part of a national hearing today designed to draw attention to what needs to be done to end a growing tragedy."

Suzanne Stevens
WSOC-TV (ABC) Charlotte, NC

"Violence is no longer something that only adults deal with. Every day it seems more and more children are affected by acts of violence, not only on our television screens but in our homes and on our streets. This week, Children's Express....is holding a three-day series of hearings on violence against young people."

Lark McCarthy
WTTG-TV (Fox), Washington, DC

"Law enforcement and public health officials are saying a virtual epidemic of youth violence has hit the streets in the last five years. For younger and younger kids in America, serious crime is becoming a way of life."

Janet Langhart
America's Black Forum

"No longer can the children take for granted the cocoon of safety at home, or in the neighborhood, even at school. So, now children take matters into their own hands. Young reporters from the news service Children's Express, began three days of hearings on violence against kids. Witnesses recalled stories of horror on the streets, in school, and at home."

Jean Enersen
KING-TV (NBC), Seattle, WA

"Many at the conference called for more after-school and evening programs, expanded drug treatment, better foster care and help for abused children. They supported gun control and strict sentences for murderers, but most dismissed the idea that television and movies cause violence, an idea en vogue on Capitol Hill."

Laura Kinoy
National Public Radio for
Morning Edition

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

VOICES FROM THE FUTURE: OUR CHILDREN TELL US ABOUT VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

(Crown/Random House:1993)

Children's Express turns its journalistic skills to the story of violence and American children. CE went out into the streets and into the shelters and schools to solicit one-on-one interviews with the young people who are the victims of—and sometimes the agents of—violence. Filled with emotion, introspection and humor, *Voices* testifies with immediacy and power to the ways in which children internalize, reenact and survive the violence in our world.

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Giant Foods, Inc.
National Education Association
Radisson Park Hotel
Diana Shannon Associates
Stouffer Mayflower Hotel
WHMM-TV32

1993 CHILDREN'S EXPRESS JOURNALISM AWARD

In conjunction with the Hearings, Children's Express presented its ninth annual award for best newspaper reporting about children in trouble. This year the recipients were Mark Gillispie and Paul Shepard of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* for their series "Youth Gangs: A Generation At Risk."

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS
1440 New York Avenue, NW
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(202) 737-7377

GIVING CHILDREN A SIGNIFICANT VOICE IN THE WORLD